

# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No 126

20p

IT WAS HUGE!  
IT WAS ALL-  
POWERFUL AND  
IT WAS VERY  
UNFRIENDLY.

## ALIEN BATTLESHIP



# STARBLAZER

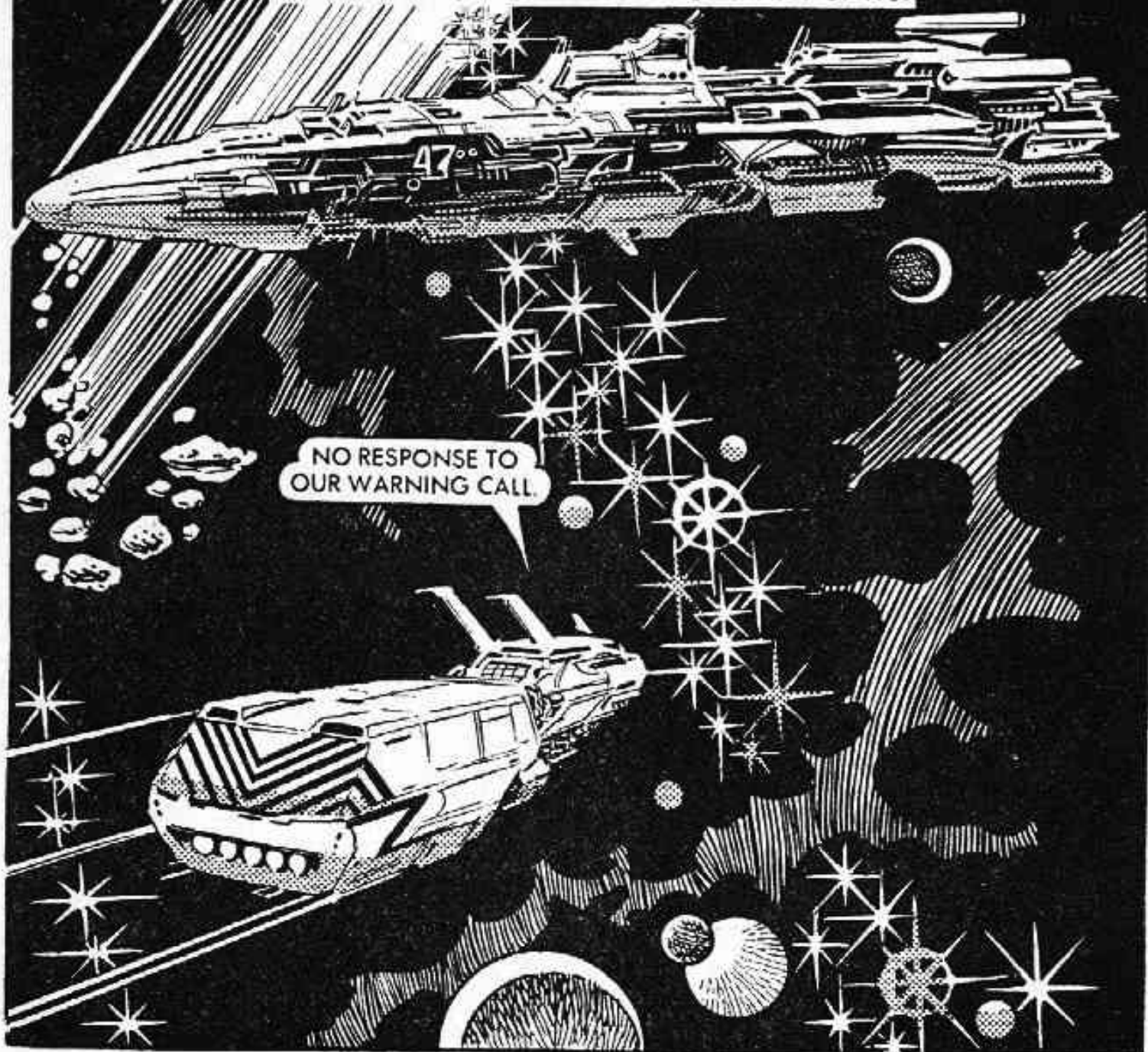


FOR MANY CENTURIES EARTH PUSHED OUT HER FRONTIERS TO THE VERY EDGE OF KNOWN SPACE. HUGE WARPWAYS WERE CONSTRUCTED TO ASSIST IN THE SAFE AND SPEEDY JOURNEYS TO OTHER SYSTEMS. RECOVERY VESSELS PATROLLED THE WARPWAYS KEEPING THEM CLEAR OF DEBRIS, SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES AND OTHERS THAT DIDN'T ADHERE TO THE RULES. IT WAS WITH SOME SURPRISE THAT THE CREW OF TI ENCOUNTERED A STRANGE CRAFT, SO STRANGE THAT IT DIDN'T EVEN RESPOND.

# ALIEN BATTLESHIP

T1, CREWED BY TWO MEN, HAD BEEN MONITORING  
THE STRANGE, SILENT VESSEL FOR MANY UNITS.

NO RESPONSE TO  
OUR WARNING CALL







THEY'RE NOT EVEN ATTEMPTING  
TO CHANGE COURSE.

GO IN CLOSER, MACK!  
SCAN FOR SIGNS OF LIFE.

SKIRTING AN APPROACHING STORM, T1 DREW ALONGSIDE THE ALIEN SHIP.

THERE'S ORGANIC LIFE ON BOARD.  
IT APPEARS TO BE DORMANT.

GET HER OFF THE SPACEWAY, AND  
CLEAR OF THE STORM. WE'LL HAVE  
TO USE THE RAMS ON HER.



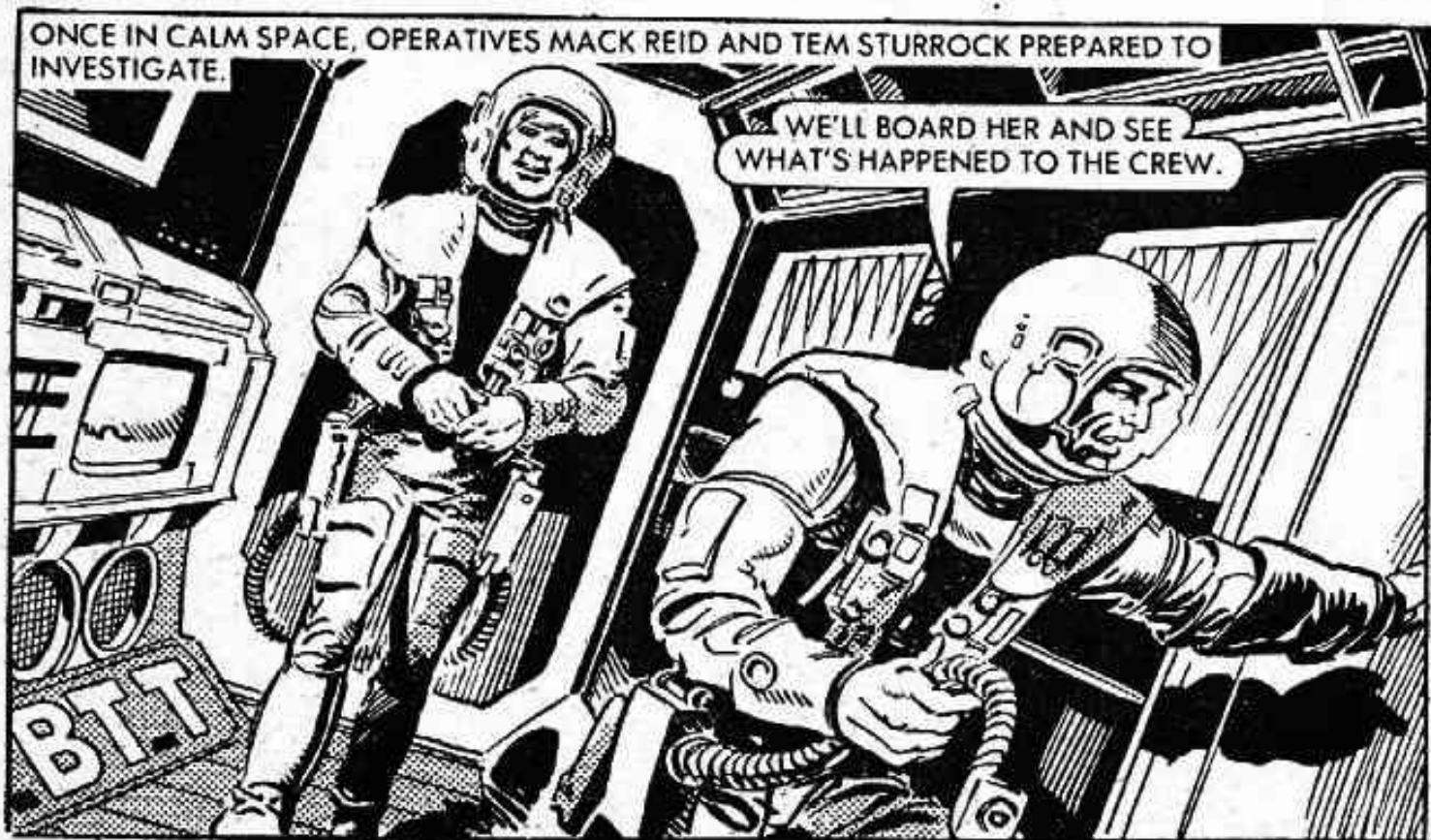
ELECTROMAGNETIC RAMS EXTENDED FROM THE SALVAGE SHIP, SENDING BOLTS OF ENERGY AGAINST THE ALIEN SHIP'S HULL.

NO FORCEFIELD  
... CLAMP ON.

THE T1 SUCCEEDED IN NUDGING THE LARGER SHIP THREE DEGREES OFF COURSE, AND INTO A SAFE AREA.

ONCE IN CALM SPACE, OPERATIVES MACK REID AND TEM STURROCK PREPARED TO INVESTIGATE.

WE'LL BOARD HER AND SEE  
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE CREW.



THE TWO DRIFTED ACROSS TO THE ALIEN VESSEL.



THEY BYPASSED THE AIRLOCK SECURITY DEVICE —

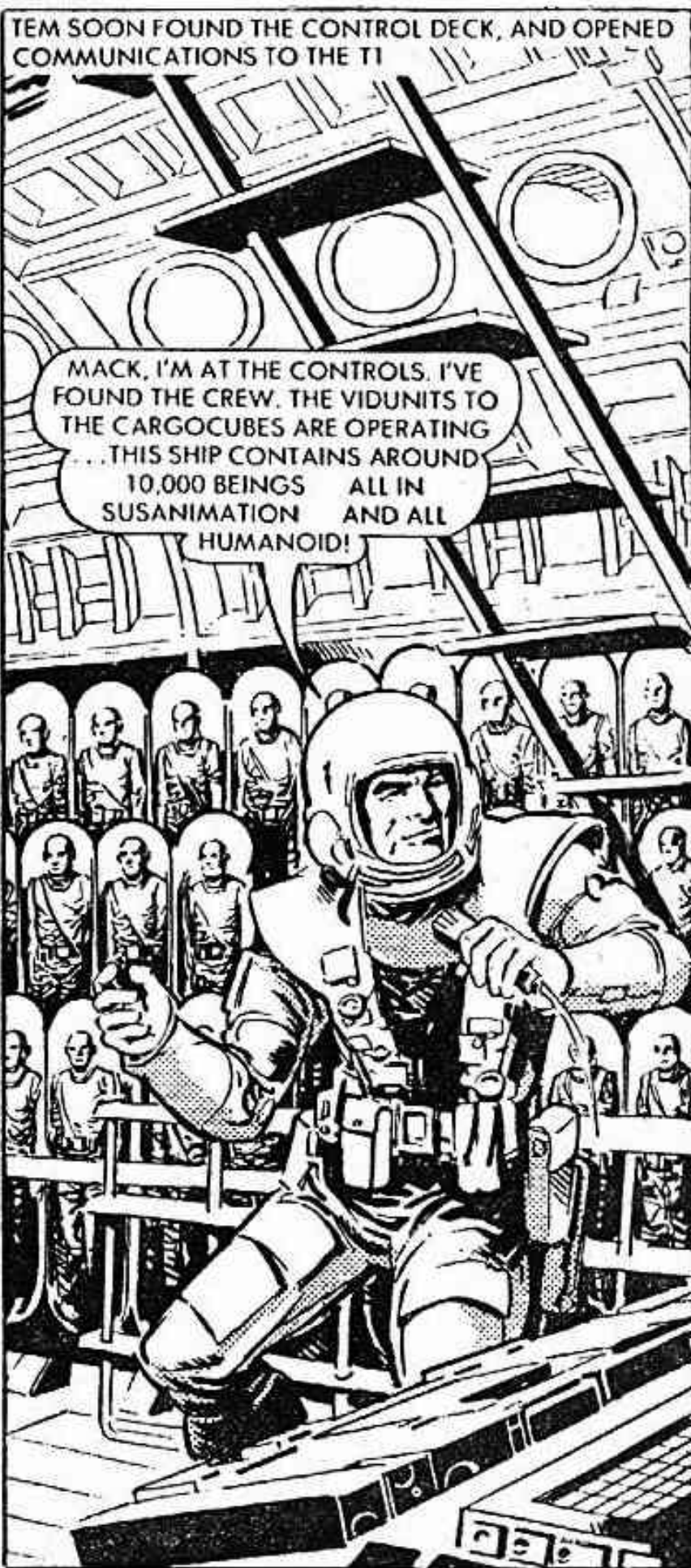


IT'S OPEN!

OH... OH... WARNING  
— YES, COMPUTER.

AUTOMONITOR DETECTS THREE  
ALIEN VESSELS AT 042, CLOSING  
FAST... PRESENT POSSIBLE  
HAZARD.







ON BOARD T1 —

TEM, THE MONITOR HAS NOW  
PRODUCED ANOTHER PROBLEM.  
ALTER COURSE, THE SHIP IS  
HEADING STRAIGHT FOR A  
RADIATION BELT AROUND THE STAR  
ALPHA DD1 9QJ.



TEM TRIED TO ALTER THE CRAFT'S COURSE —

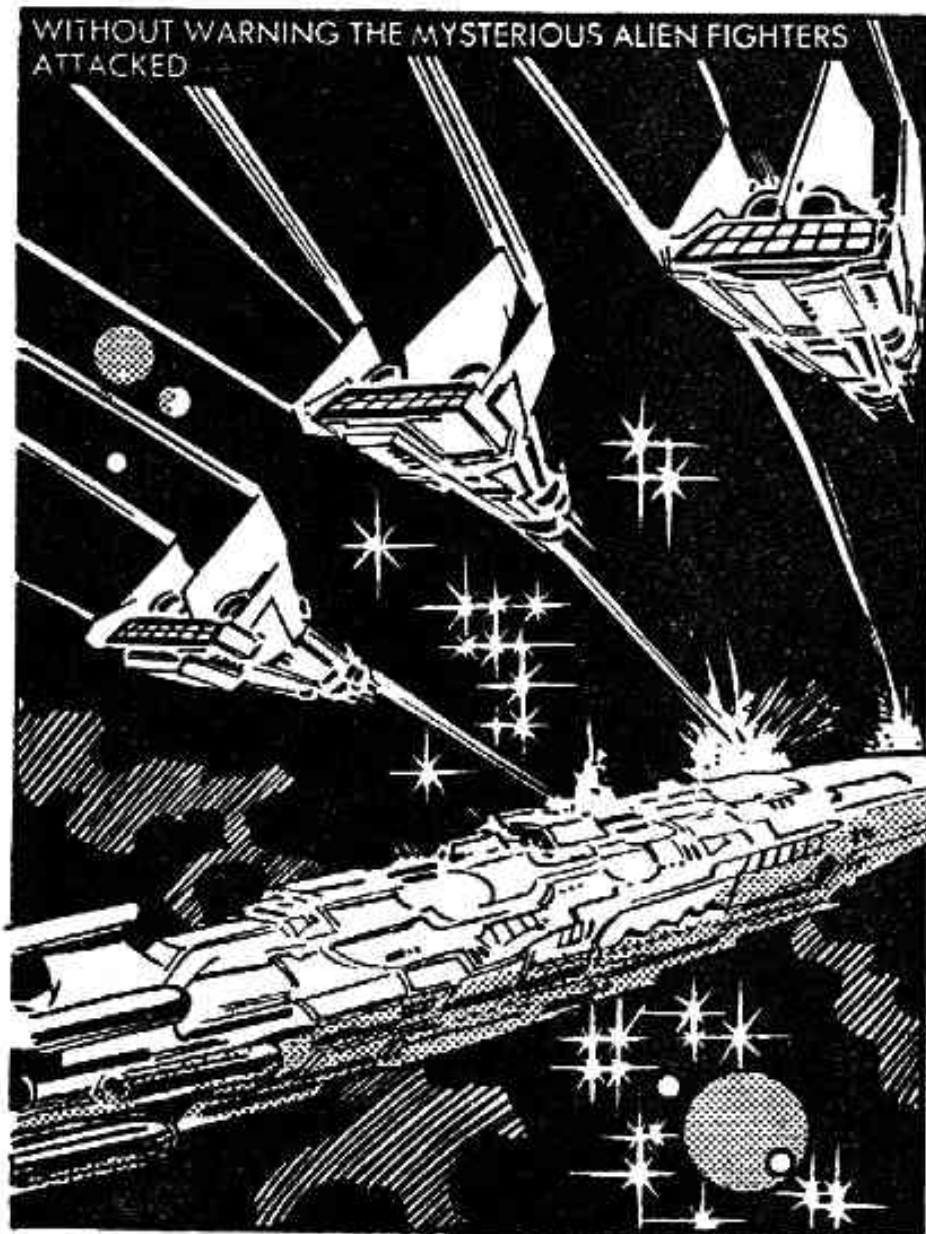
IT'S NO GOOD, THE CONTROLS ARE  
TOO COMPLEX. I'LL NEED A COMPUTER  
LINK IN ORDER TO CHANGE  
COURSE.

NO GOOD . . . BY THE TIME THAT'S SET UP,  
THE CRAFT WILL BE SOAKED WITH RADIATION.





WITHOUT WARNING THE MYSTERIOUS ALIEN FIGHTERS  
ATTACKED



THE MISSILE STRIKES INITIATED  
AN AUTO RESPONSE FROM THE  
SLUMBERING CRAFT —

WHAT'S HAPPENING? ARE  
THEY SHOOTING AT US?

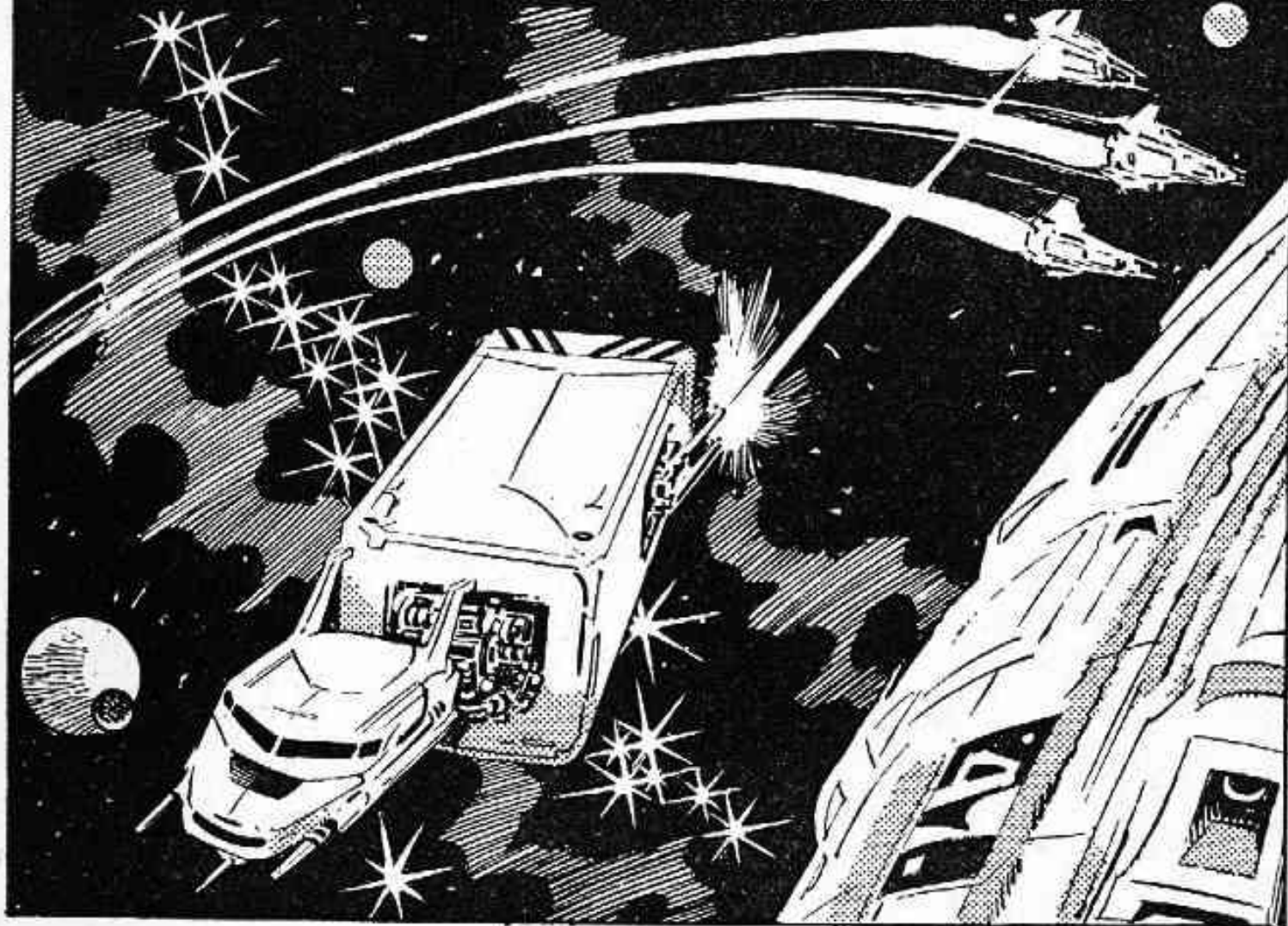




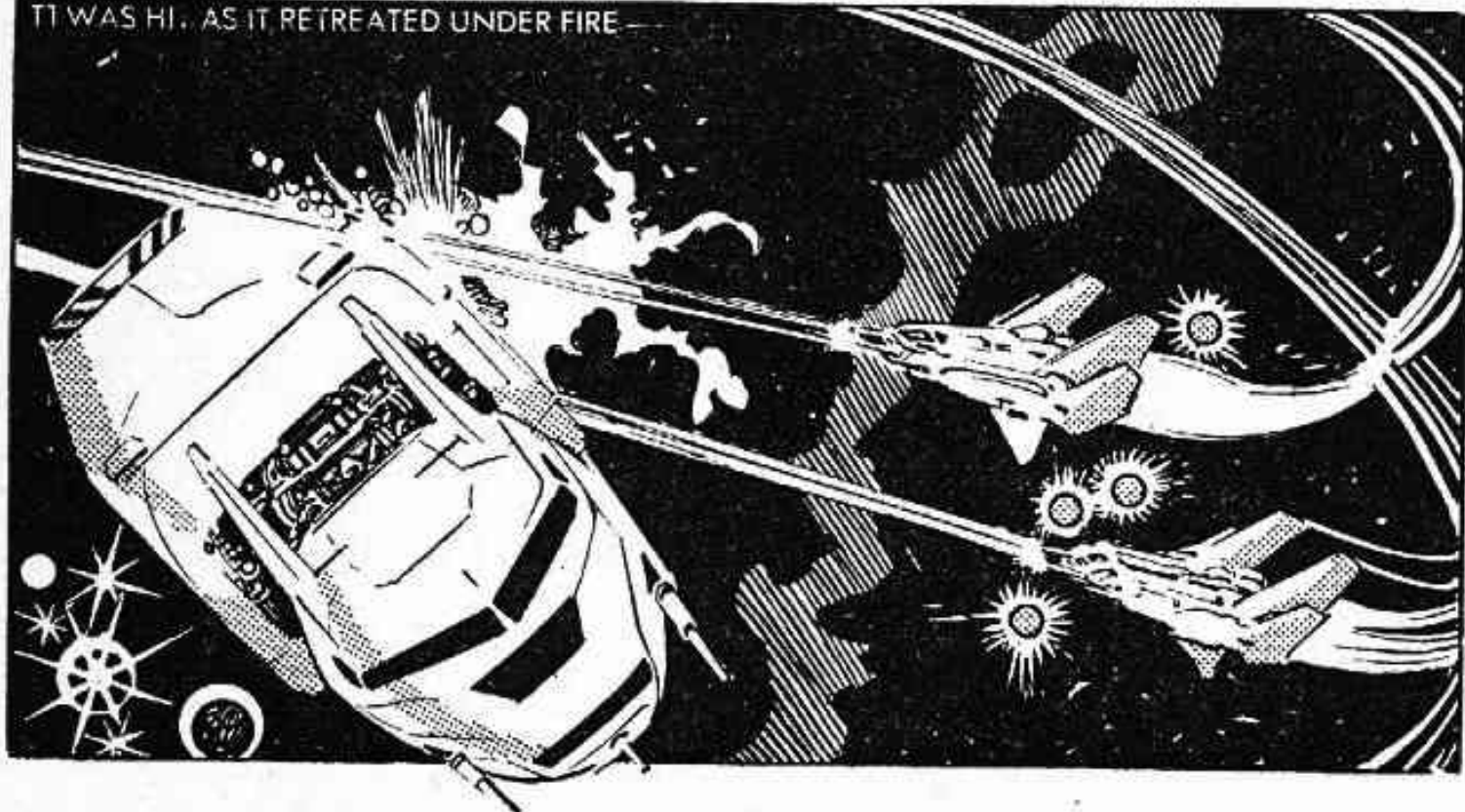




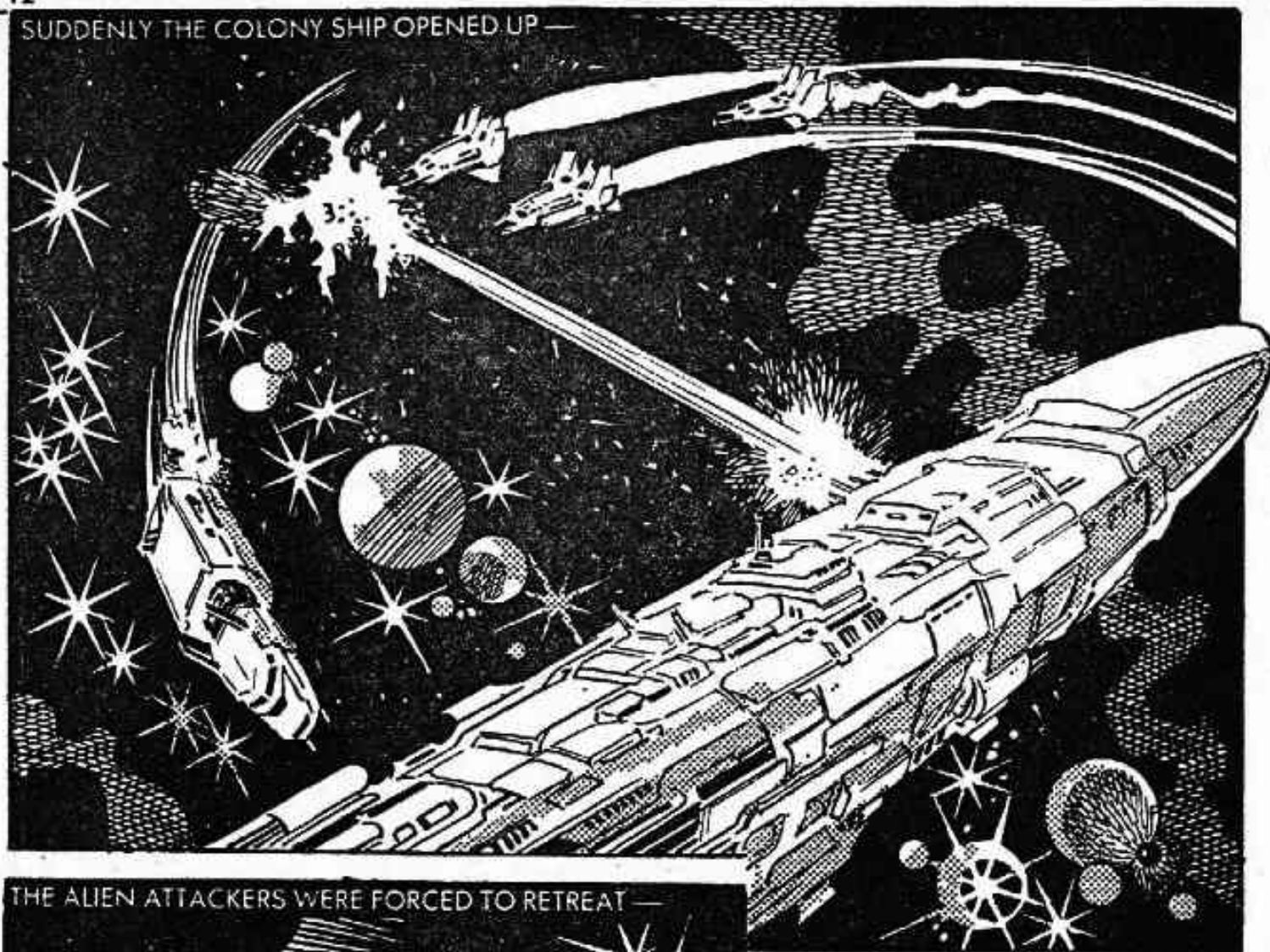
MAC K DISCHARGED THE SALVAGE SHIP'S CUTTING LASER INTO THE ENEMY FORMATION —



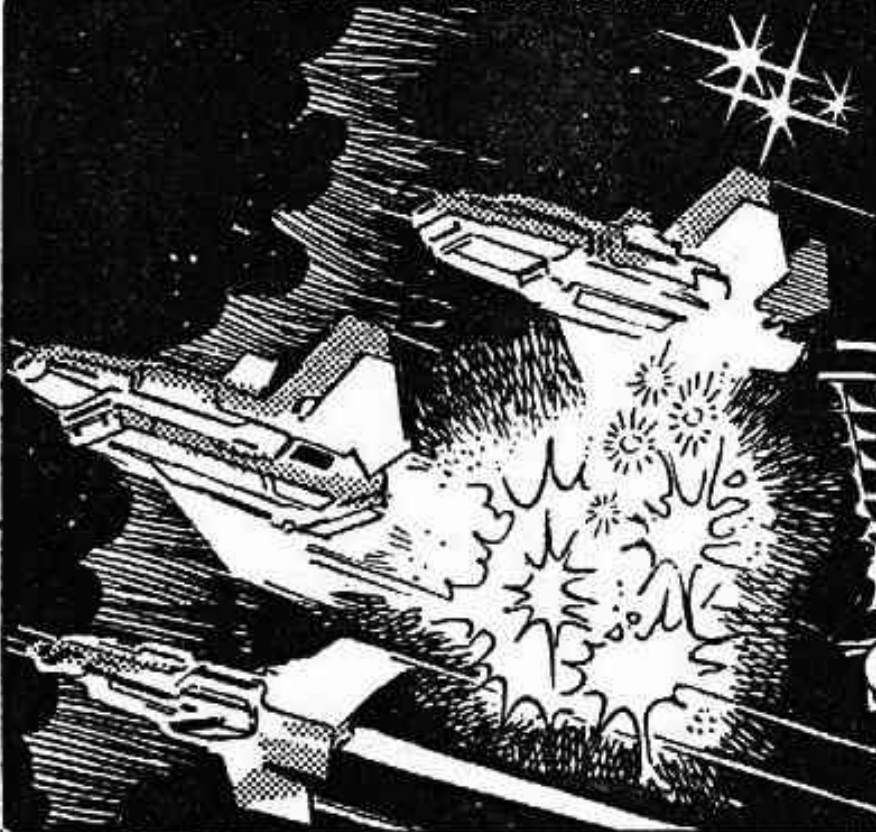
IT WAS HI, AS IT RETREATED UNDER FIRE —



SUDDENLY THE COLONY SHIP OPENED UP —



THE ALIEN ATTACKERS WERE FORCED TO RETREAT —



VIDLINK WAS IMMEDIATELY  
RESTORED —



PILOT — AS YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY  
DAMAGED YOU WILL TOUCH  
DOWN ON PLANET 7 IN THIS  
SYSTEM — WE SHALL FOLLOW  
YOU IN.



WITHIN A PARSEC BOTH CRAFT HAD LANDED



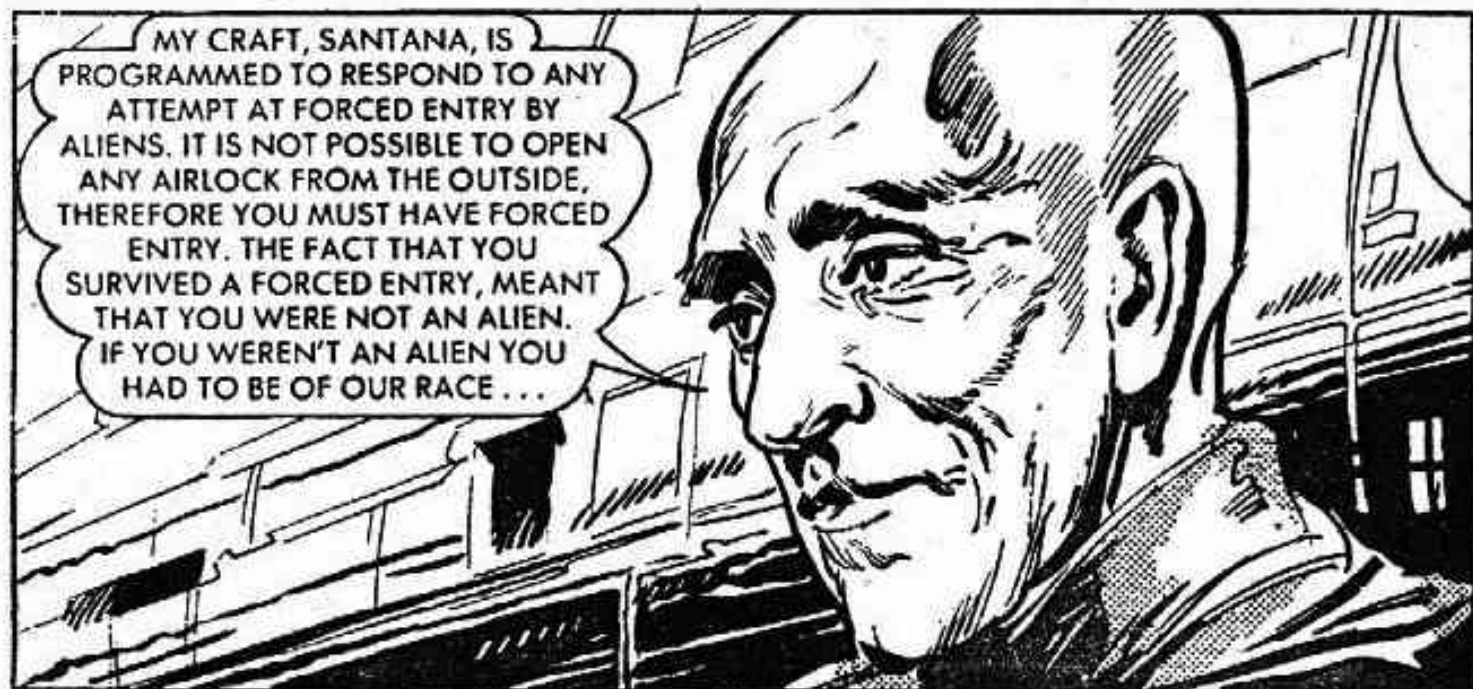


MACK WAS MET BY TEM AND THE PERSON HE HAD SEEN ON THE SCREEN.

I AM HIRLIX, AND YOUR HELP WAS WELCOME. I THINK YOU ARE ENTITLED TO AN EXPLANATION. WHEN I AWOKE FROM SUSPSLEEP I WAS PUZZLED TO FIND THIS MAN, TEM, ON BOARD. HOWEVER, ONCE MY LOGIC PROCESSES RETURNED TO NORMAL, EVERYTHING BECAME OBVIOUS.



MY CRAFT, SANTANA, IS PROGRAMMED TO RESPOND TO ANY ATTEMPT AT FORCED ENTRY BY ALIENS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO OPEN ANY AIRLOCK FROM THE OUTSIDE, THEREFORE YOU MUST HAVE FORCED ENTRY. THE FACT THAT YOU SURVIVED A FORCED ENTRY, MEANT THAT YOU WERE NOT AN ALIEN. IF YOU WEREN'T AN ALIEN YOU HAD TO BE OF OUR RACE...







THE WAR HAS DRAGGED ON FOR YEARS, AND NOW THE GORGOI ARE TOO NUMEROUS. MOST PLANETS HAVE BEEN DEVASTATED. THE SURVIVORS ATTEMPTED, BY USING COLONY SHIPS, TO RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY OF EARTH. WE BELIEVE THE GORGOI HAVE DESTROYED ALL BUT OUR OWN UNIT.



LOOK!



GORGOI FROM THEIR INFERNAL ALIEN BATTLESHIP. THEY HAVE DOGGED US EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. STILL, WE WOULD PREFER TO FIGHT THEM ON THE GROUND — OUR MAIN ARMAMENT IS STILL INOPERATIVE, DUE TO AN INABILITY TO RECHARGE IN DEEP SPACE.





AS THE COLONISTS PREPARED A GROUND BASE, MACK SCANNED THE AREA WITH AN INFRARED COMPDETECTOR.

THAT RUIN'S AT THE CENTRE OF A WEB OF TUNNELS BENEATH THE MOUND. THEY RADIATE FOR MILES AROUND. SOME HAVE CAVED IN, BUT SEVERAL ARE CLEAR. THERE'S NO OTHER SIGN OF HABITATION.



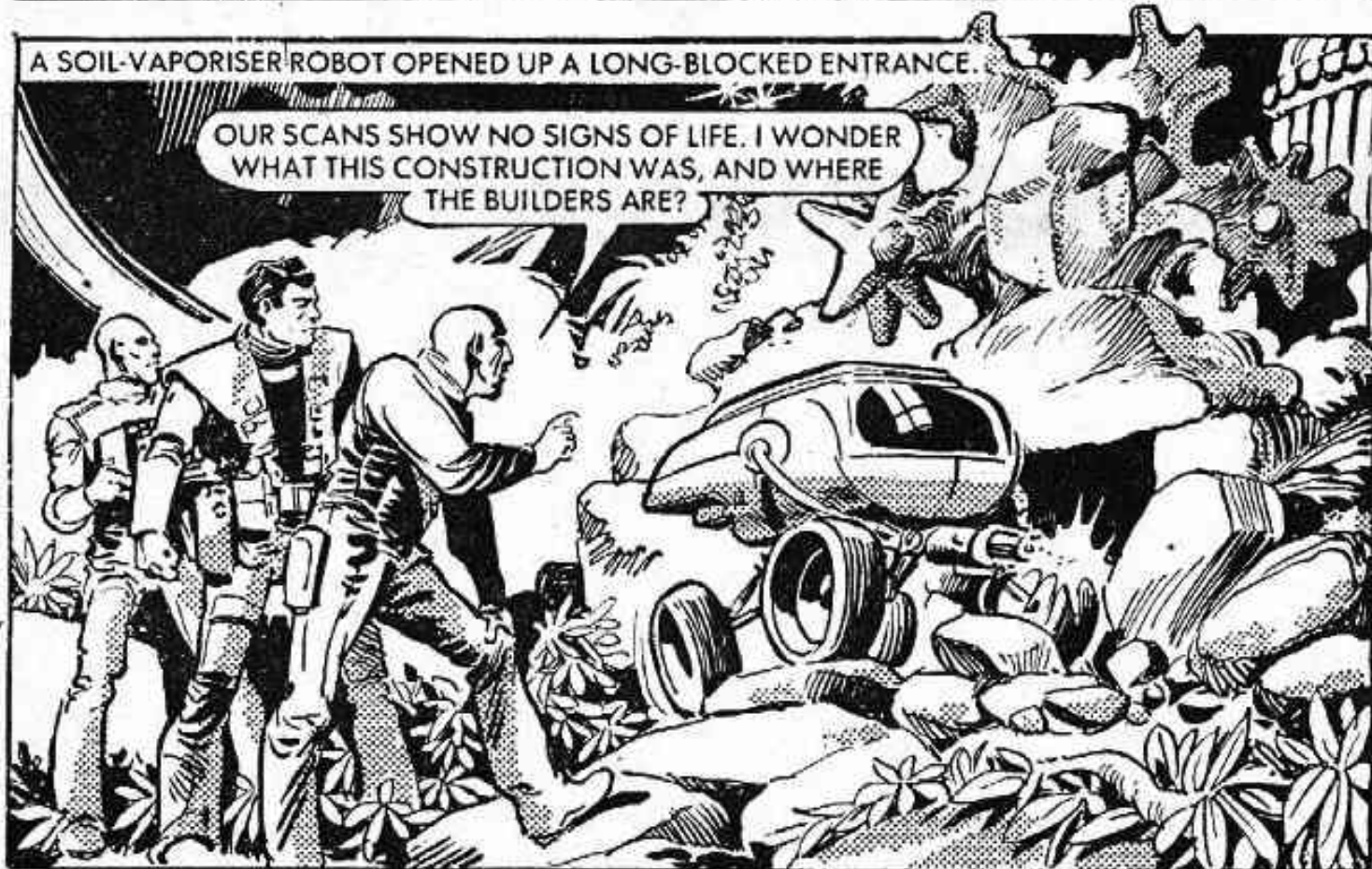
HIRLIX SUMMONED ROBOT WORK VEHICLES —

WE MUST INVESTIGATE ...  
COME!



A SOIL-VAPORISER ROBOT OPENED UP A LONG-BLOCKED ENTRANCE.

OUR SCANS SHOW NO SIGNS OF LIFE. I WONDER  
WHAT THIS CONSTRUCTION WAS, AND WHERE  
THE BUILDERS ARE?





LONG HOURS PASSED AS THE ROBOT CLEARED THE TUNNEL. FROM THE SANTANA, A CAREFUL WATCH WAS KEPT AS THE GORGOI MOTHERSHIP, IN DEEP SPACE, SENT DOWN LOAD AFTER LOAD OF TROOPS.



EVENTUALLY AN OPENING WAS EXCAVATED—

THE TUNNELS ARE SAFE... HOWEVER  
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THEY GO.



BACK AT T1, MACK HAD PICKED UP ADVANCING GORGOI FORCES—

ALERT! GORGOI  
GROUND FORCES...





ALERTED, THE COMBINED TERRAN FORCES WAITED—



THE FIRST WAVE OF GORGOI ATTACKED.



BUT THE EARTH FORCE HELD THEM AT BAY—



THE GORGOI PERSHING SS.20 AUTOFIRE CRAFT LOCKED ONTO THEIR TARGETS—





THE COLONISTS HAD NO ANSWER  
TO THE LETHAL AUTOCRAFT—



WITH THE RING OF DEFENCE BREACHED, THE GORGOI BEGAN TO POUR THROUGH. THE COLONY SHIP, POWER SOURCES DRAINED, WAS USELESS.



CLOSE UP THE COLONY SHIP... WE'LL  
RETREAT INTO THE TUNNELS.

MACK SEALED THE SANTANA BY COMPUTER LINK, AND BEFORE HE LEFT T1—

ONE FINAL ACTION  
BEFORE I SEAL UP T1.



MACK LAUNCHED LASER FLARES WHICH WERE USED IN SALVAGE WORK TO TEMPORARILY STOP MACHINERY SUCH AS SUB-ATMOSPHERIC IONGRAV ENGINES.



SUCH AS THOSE THAT  
POWERED THE GORGOI  
AUTOFIRE CRAFT.





ONE CRAFT PLUNGED INTO THE  
ADVANCING GORGOI—

THE SECOND CRAFT CRASHED NEAR THE SALVAGE SHIP,  
BUT REMAINED INTACT.—

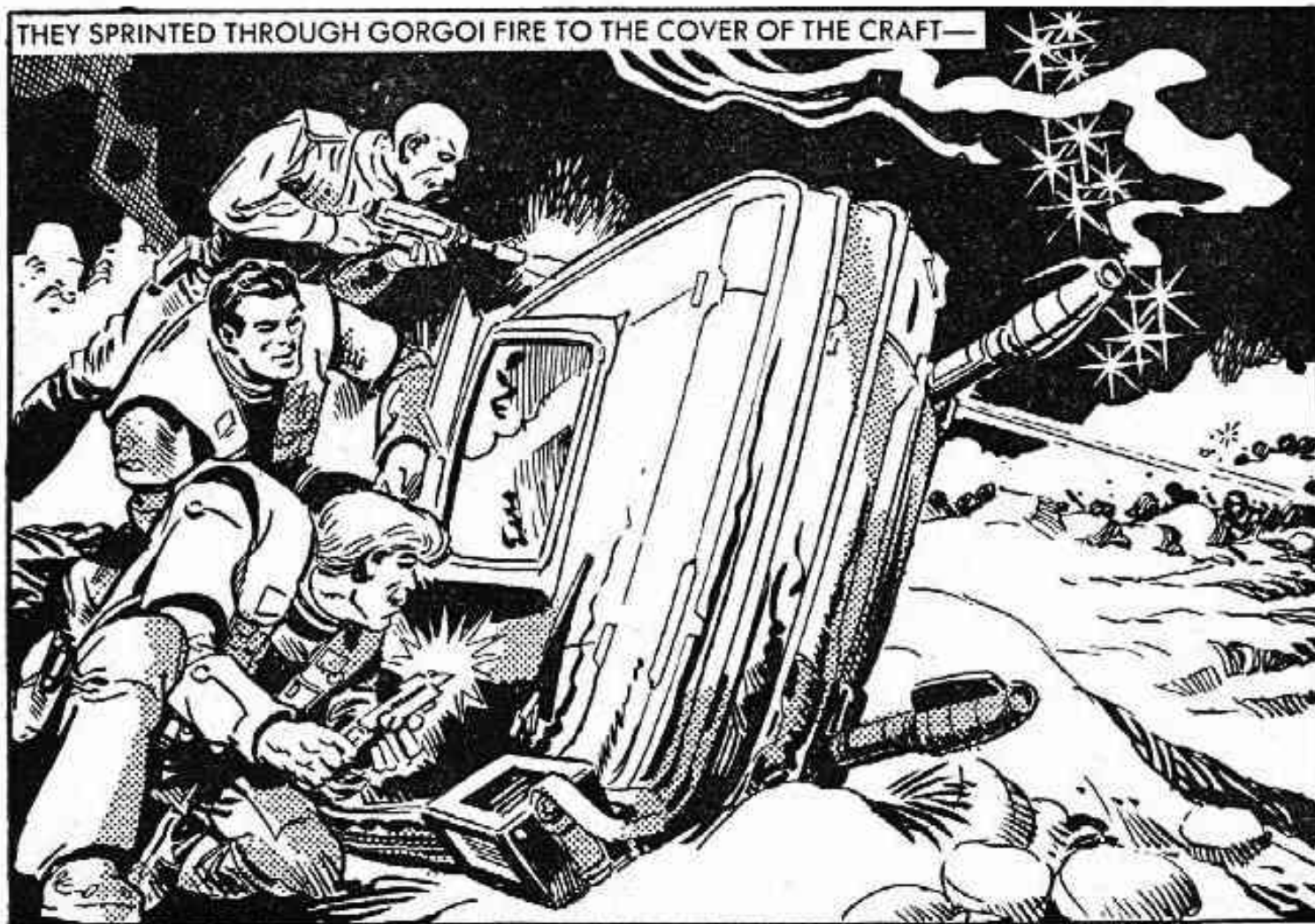


ABRUPTLY THE COMPUTER ON THE LASERCRAFT SHUT DOWN TO INVESTIGATE THE MALFUNCTION.

THAT'S IT—RUN LIKE HADES BEFORE IT OPENS UP AGAIN.



THEY SPURTED THROUGH GORGOI FIRE TO THE COVER OF THE CRAFT—



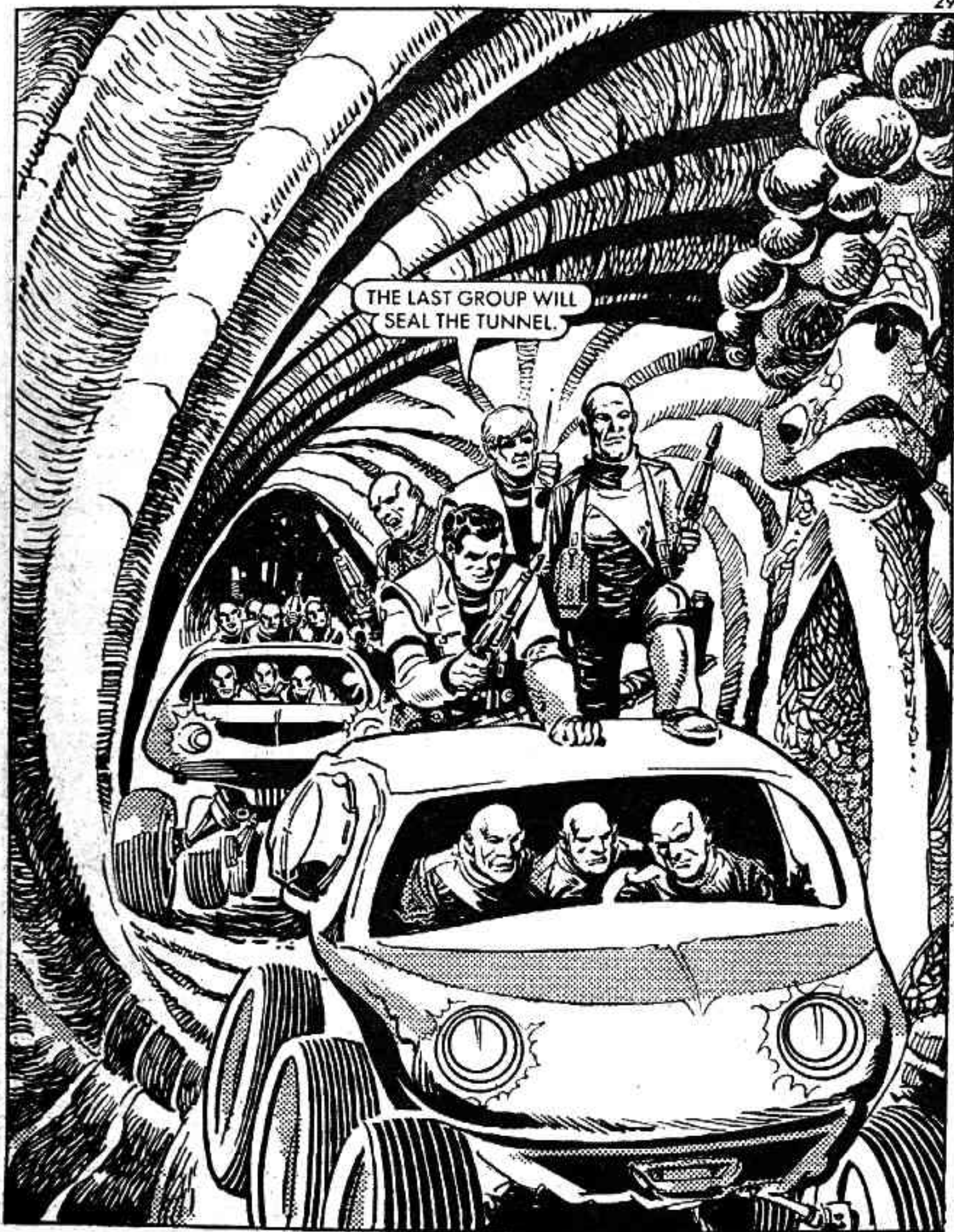


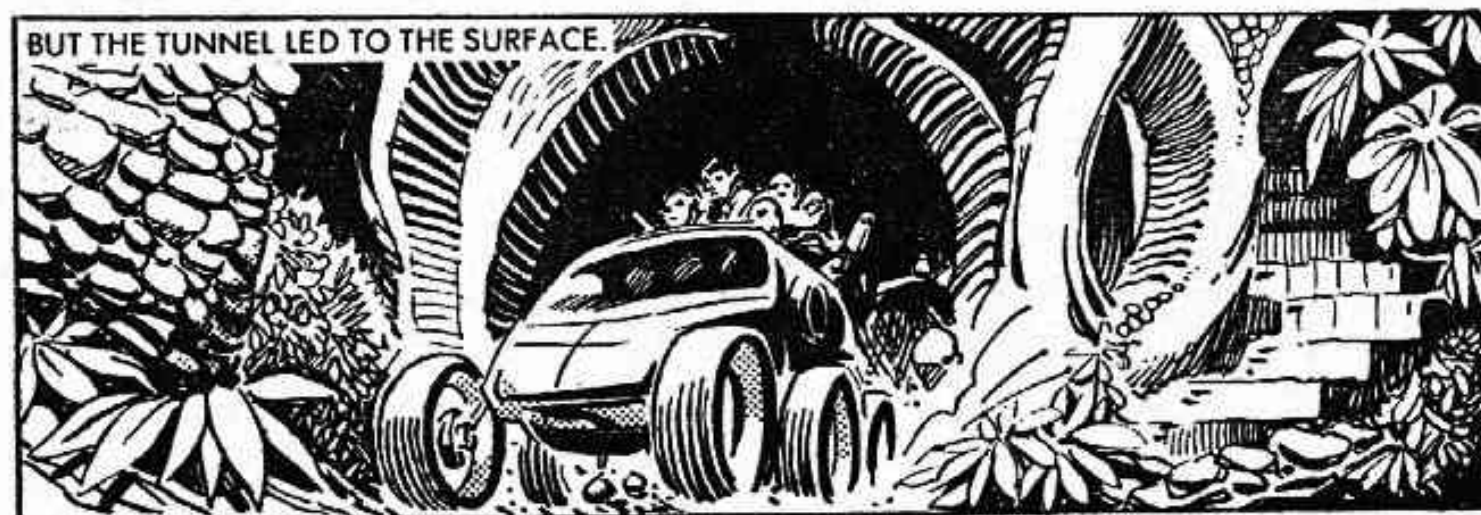






THE LAST GROUP WILL  
SEAL THE TUNNEL.





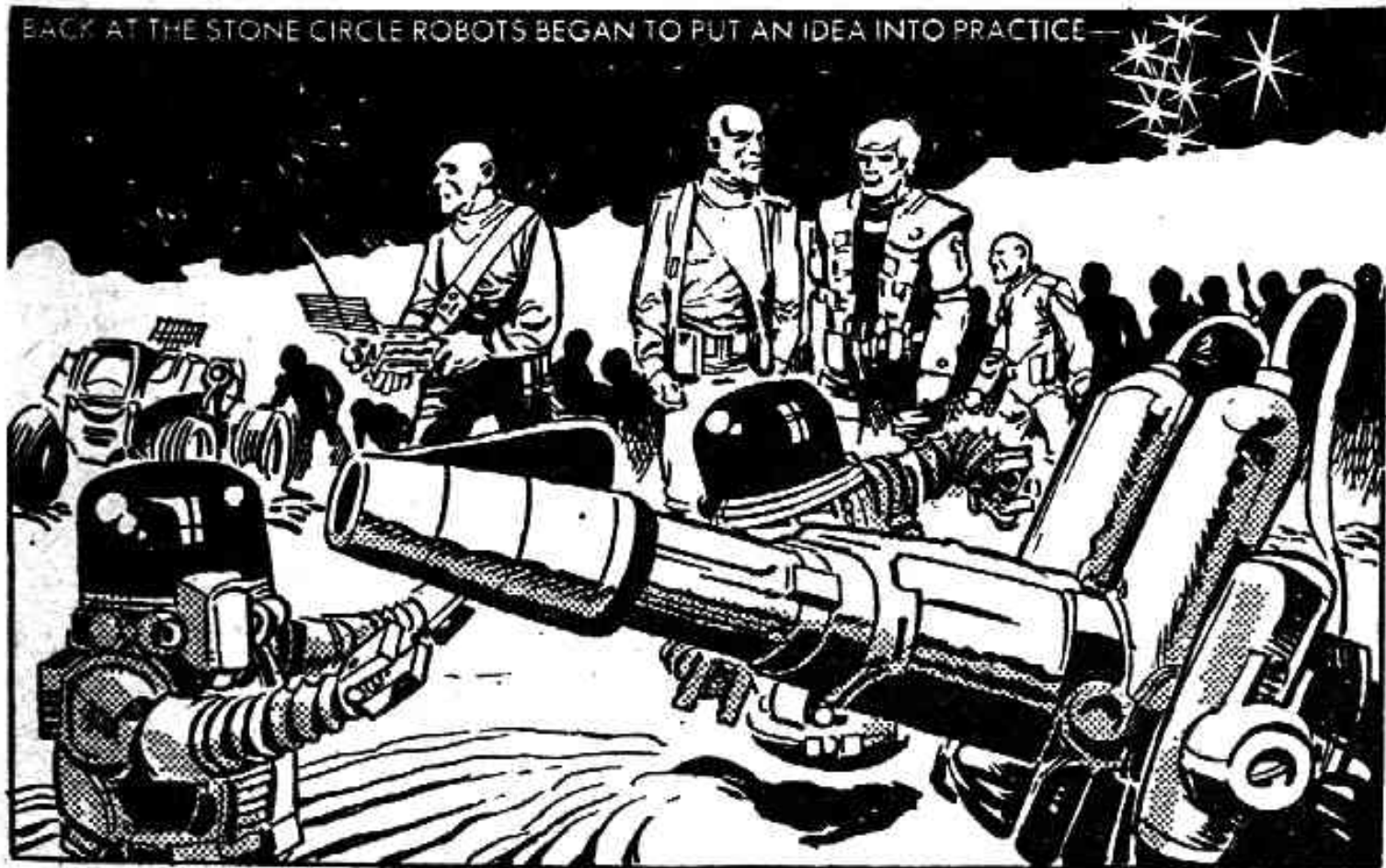


TEM AND A COLONIST SCOUTED THE AREA—

WE'VE TRAVELLED ABOUT A DOZEN  
SEKS UNDERGROUND — THERE'S THE  
GORGOI MOTHER CRAFT.



BACK AT THE STONE CIRCLE ROBOTS BEGAN TO PUT AN IDEA INTO PRACTICE —



TWO OF THE FORCE WERE  
DESPATCHED TO RIG A CANNON IN  
SUCH A POSITION THAT THE  
INEVITABLE GORGOI ATTACK WOULD  
BE CAUGHT IN A CROSSFIRE AND  
UNABLE TO RETREAT.



WILL IT WORK?

YES... IF WE CAN PERSUADE  
THE GORGOI TO ATTACK US.

IF THE GORGOI ATTACK US, THAT DEVICE WILL  
ABSORB AND MAGNIFY THE DISCHARGED ION  
ENERGY OF THEIR BLASTERS...





... THROUGH THIS SATELLITE AND  
EVENTUALLY TO A RECHARGE UNIT ON THE  
MOTHER SHIP. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS  
ATTACK THE GORGOI, LAUNCH THIS, AND  
HOPE FOR THE BEST. YOU SEE, THEIR  
WEAPONS HAVE THE RIGHT KIND OF  
ENERGY.



FIRE!



CHAOS REIGNED IN THE GORGOI CAMP—





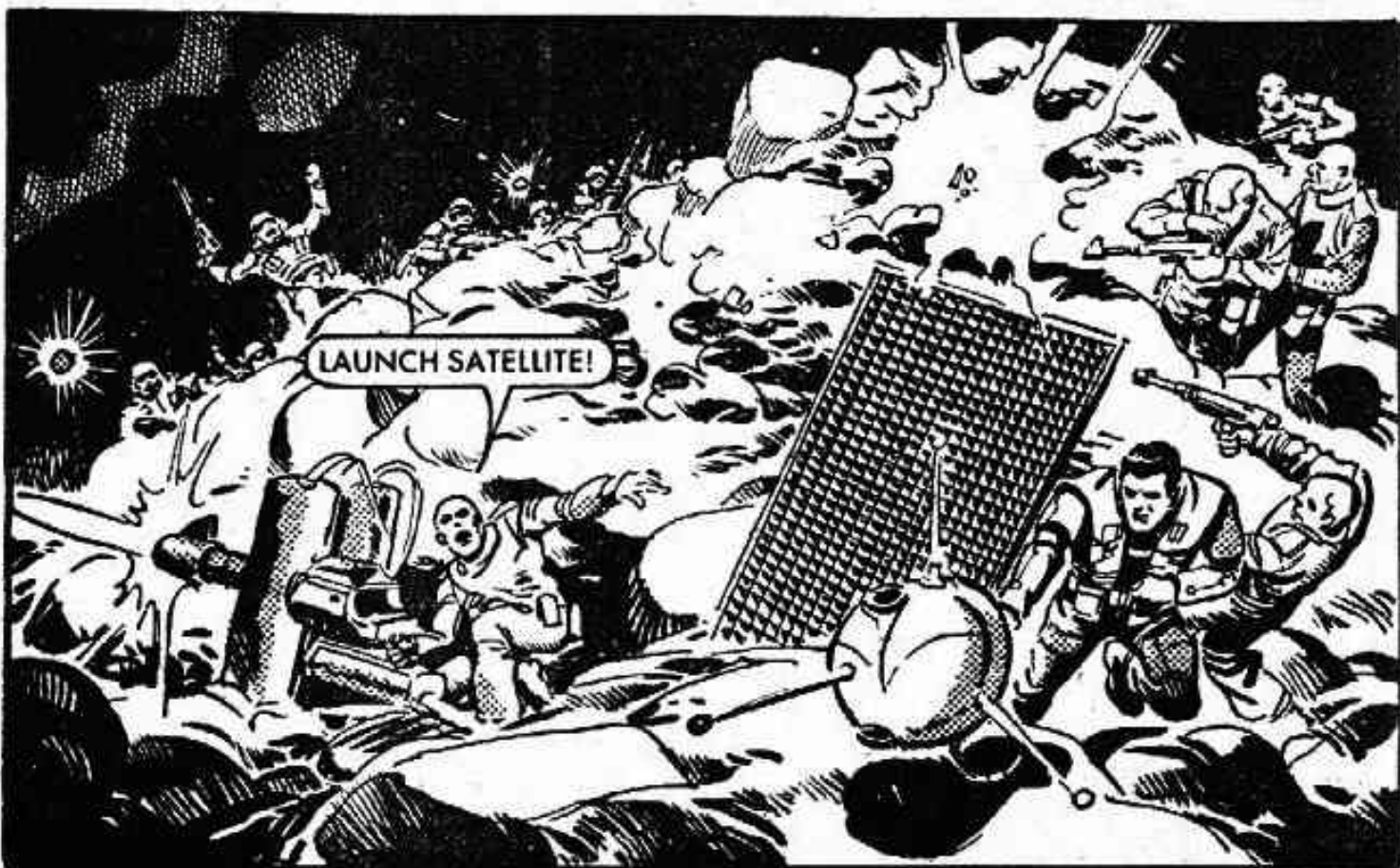
THE GORGOI SCALED THE CLIFF RAPIDLY TO REACH THEIR ENEMIES.



WE COULD PICK THEM OFF BEFORE THEY  
GOT HALF WAY UP.

YES, BUT WE NEED THEM TO FIRE AT US  
WITH THEIR BEAM WEAPONS.







THE PLAN WAS WELL UNDER WAY...



... WITH THE SMALL SATELLITE CHANNELLING ALL THE IONISED ENERGY BACK TOWARDS SANTANA.

ACTIVATED BY A CODE, THE COLONY SHIP OPENED A RECHARGING EYE, AND SYSTEMS BEGAN TO REPLACE VITAL ENERGY.





THE JOURNEY BACK THROUGH THE TUNNELS WAS RAPID, AND WITH THEM DESTROYED TO STOP PURSUIT, A WATCH WAS KEPT ON THE GORGOI FROM THE COLONY SHIP.





A GORGOI ASSAULT TEAM ATTEMPTED TO OUTFLANK THE HUMANS BY ATTACKING THROUGH THE SWAMP.

THE GORGOI ARE ADVANCING THROUGH THE SWAMP. WE CAN TAKE THEM THERE.

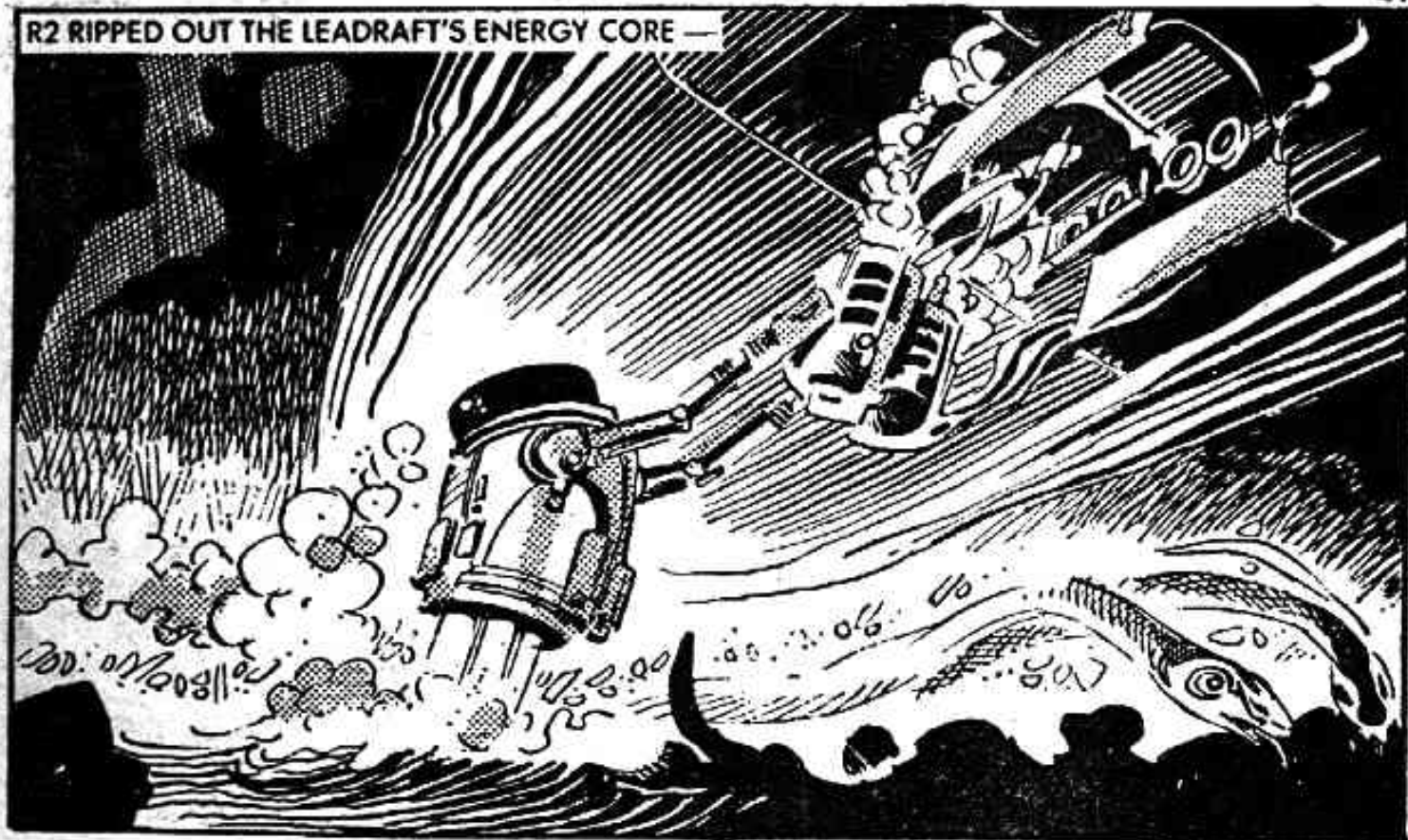
MACK LED A FORCE INTO THE SWAMP TO INTERCEPT THE GORGOI.







R2 RIPPED OUT THE LEADRAFT'S ENERGY CORE —



R3 ... DIVERT THE OTHER TWO ... WE'LL  
BOARD THE DAMAGED ONE.



THEY CLAMBERED ABOARD A DAMAGED RAFT —





IN FRONT OF THE REMAINING RAFTS, R3 DISCHARGED A COCKTAIL OF CHEMICALS —



THE COMPOUND CAUSED THE RIVER TO FREEZE ALMOST INSTANTLY —



BUT TOO LATE —



MACK WAS IN THE PROCESS OF DEALING WITH THE GUNSHIP WHEN THE AIR SUPPORT ARRIVED.







BUT THE GUNSHIP INADVERTANTLY RUINED THE AMBUSH, BY CRASHING INTO, AND BREAKING, THE ICE.



MACK! WE'LL HAVE TO GO AFTER IT.





THE REMAINING GORGOI RAFT EMERGED INTO CLEAR WATERS —

THERE'S OUR OBJECTIVE —  
AND NO SIGN OF ANY DEFENDERS.



MACK TO COLONY SHIP . . . PREPARE  
FOR ATTACK BY GORGOI SQUAD.

NOT POSSIBLE . . . WE ARE  
STILL TAKING IN ENERGY!



SEND TEM AND THREE OTHERS TO  
T1 FOR THE SUBMERSIBLE SUITS, THEN . . .



TEM FOLLOWED MACK'S PLAN TO ENTER THE LAKE AHEAD OF THE RAFT.



SLOW DOWN! PREPARE  
TO ATTACK THE SANTANA.





AS THE RAFT SLOWED, IT PRESENTED A PERFECT TARGET.



SAVE YOURSELVES!



SOME OF THE GORGOI MANAGED TO PUT ON HELMETS, AND FOUGHT WITH THE COLONISTS UNDERWATER



BUT EVENTUALLY —



WE'VE WIPED OUT THE GORGOI ASSAULT TEAM, MACK.

BACK TO THE SHIPS BEFORE WE ARE CAUGHT.



SANTANA AND THE T1 BLASTED INTO ORBIT —

OUR BANKS CANNOT COPE WITH SPACEFLIGHT AND FIGHTING. WE HAVE NO HOPE OF COMING OUT OF THIS ALIVE UNLESS WE CAN GET THE GORGOI BATTLESHIP IN ORBIT.



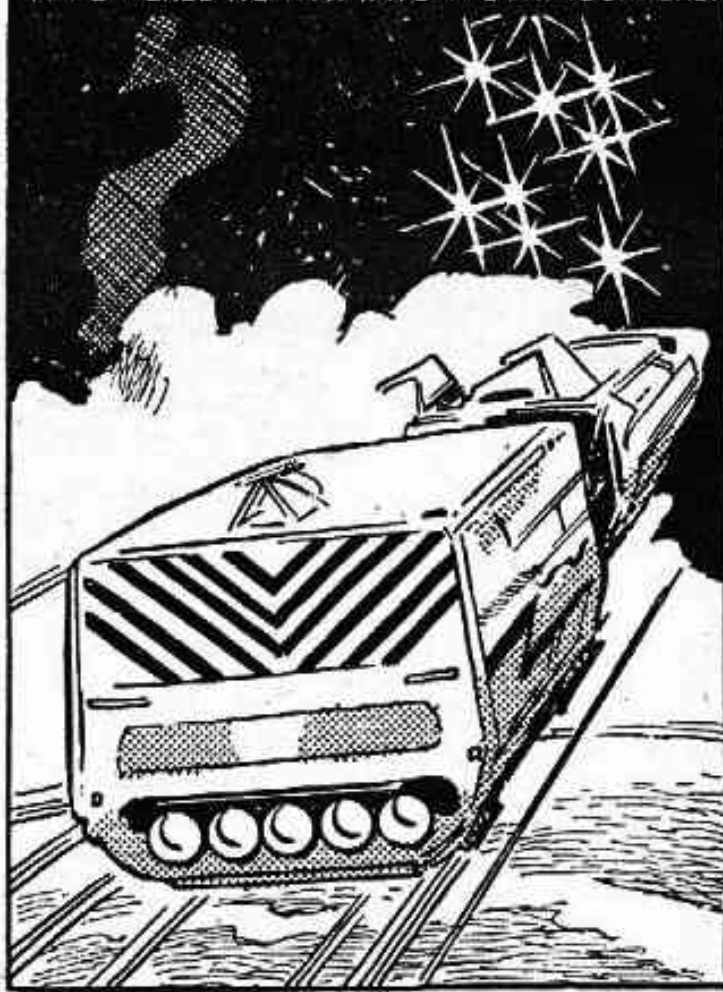
THAT IS THE ONLY CHANCE WE HAVE OF DESTROYING THE GORGOI BATTLESHIP, WHICH IS THE BASE FOR ALL THESE FIGHTERS THAT KEEP ON OUR TRACK.

T1's ONLY NEEDLEPROBE ENTRANCE CRAFT WAS PREPARED FOR A RISKY ATTEMPT AT CAPTURING THE GORGOI FIGHTER —

WE'LL ONLY GET ONE CHANCE, TEM, SO WHEN I GIVE THE WORD — LAUNCH THIS.

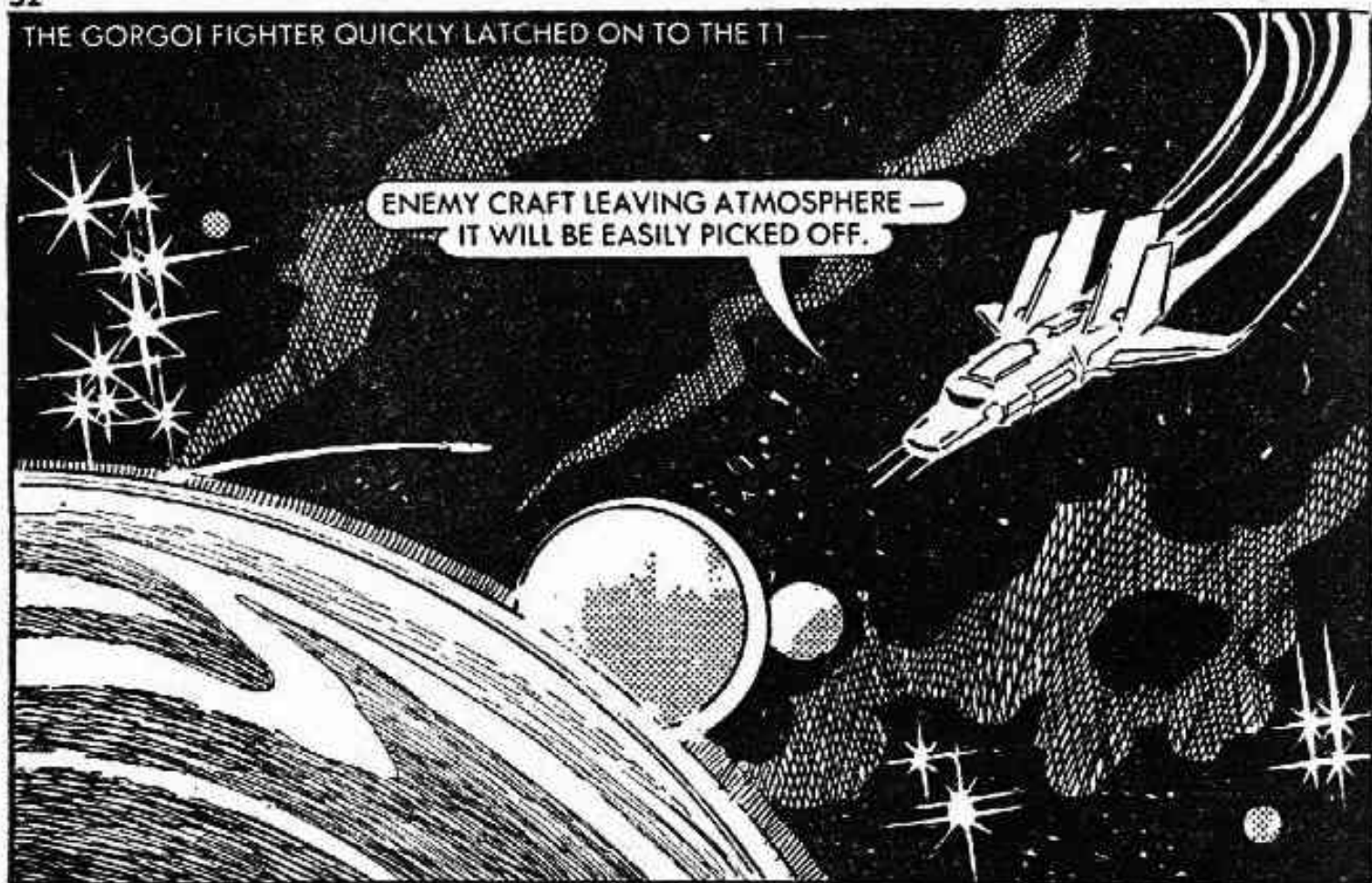


T1 POWERED ITS WAY INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.



THE GORGOI FIGHTER QUICKLY LATCHED ON TO THE T1 —

ENEMY CRAFT LEAVING ATMOSPHERE —  
IT WILL BE EASILY PICKED OFF.



THE GORGOI FIGHTER SLID IN BEHIND THE BLIND AND ALMOST DEFENCELESS T1

TARGET CANNON ... FIRE  
ON COMMAND ...

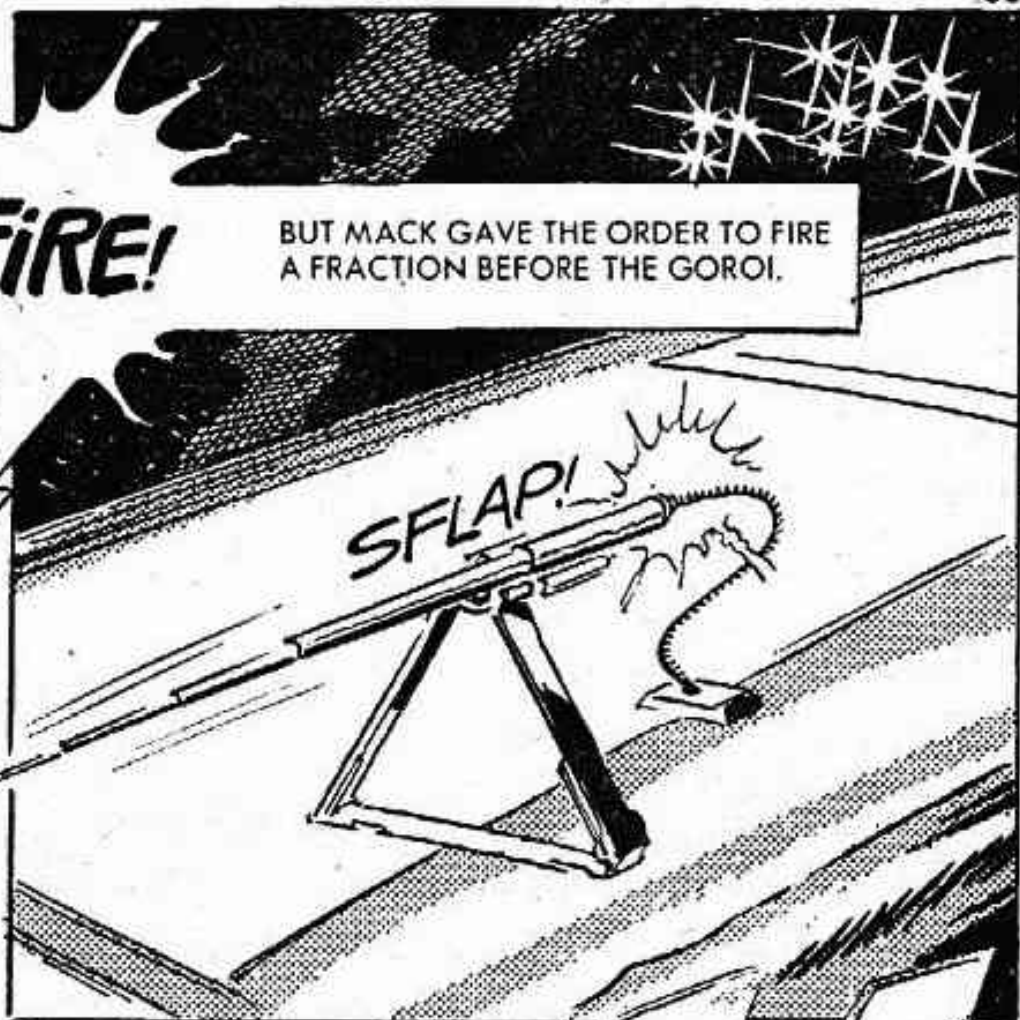






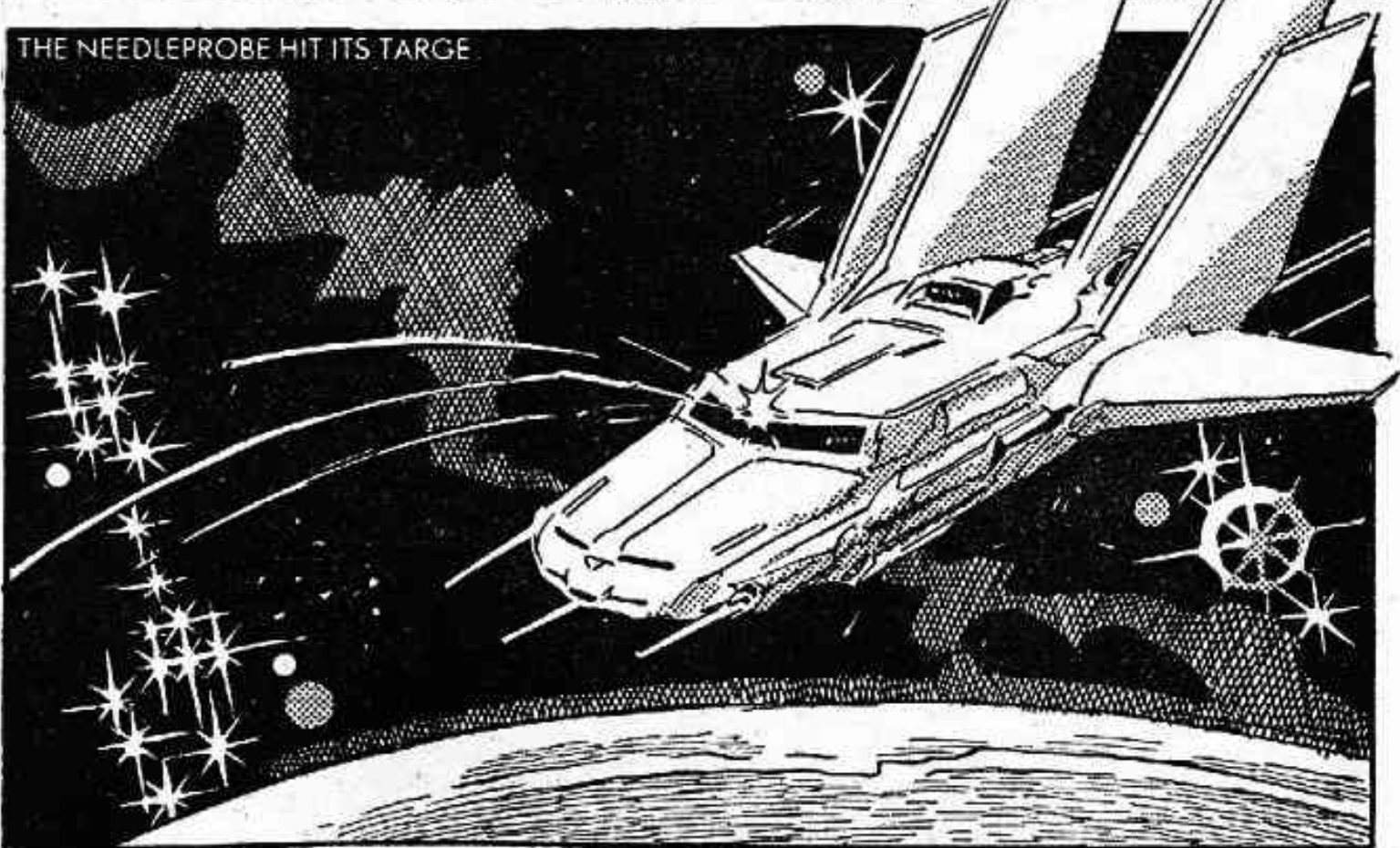
**FIRE!**

BUT MACK GAVE THE ORDER TO FIRE  
A FRACTION BEFORE THE GOROI.



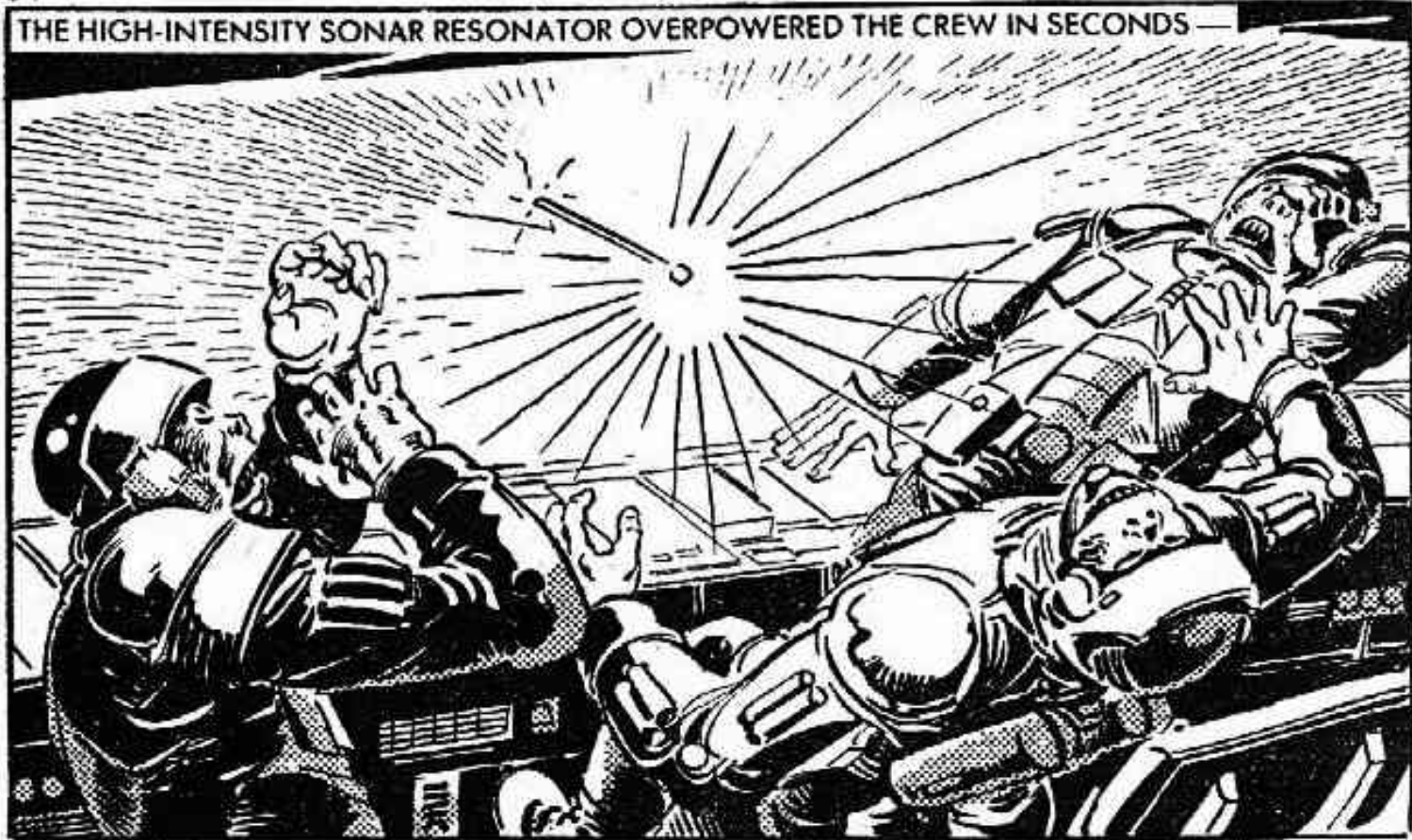
**SFLAP!**

THE NEEDLEPROBE HIT ITS TARGET





THE HIGH-INTENSITY SONAR RESONATOR OVERPOWERED THE CREW IN SECONDS —



MACK AND HIS SQUAD DRIFTED OVER —

STOP THE AUTO SOS.





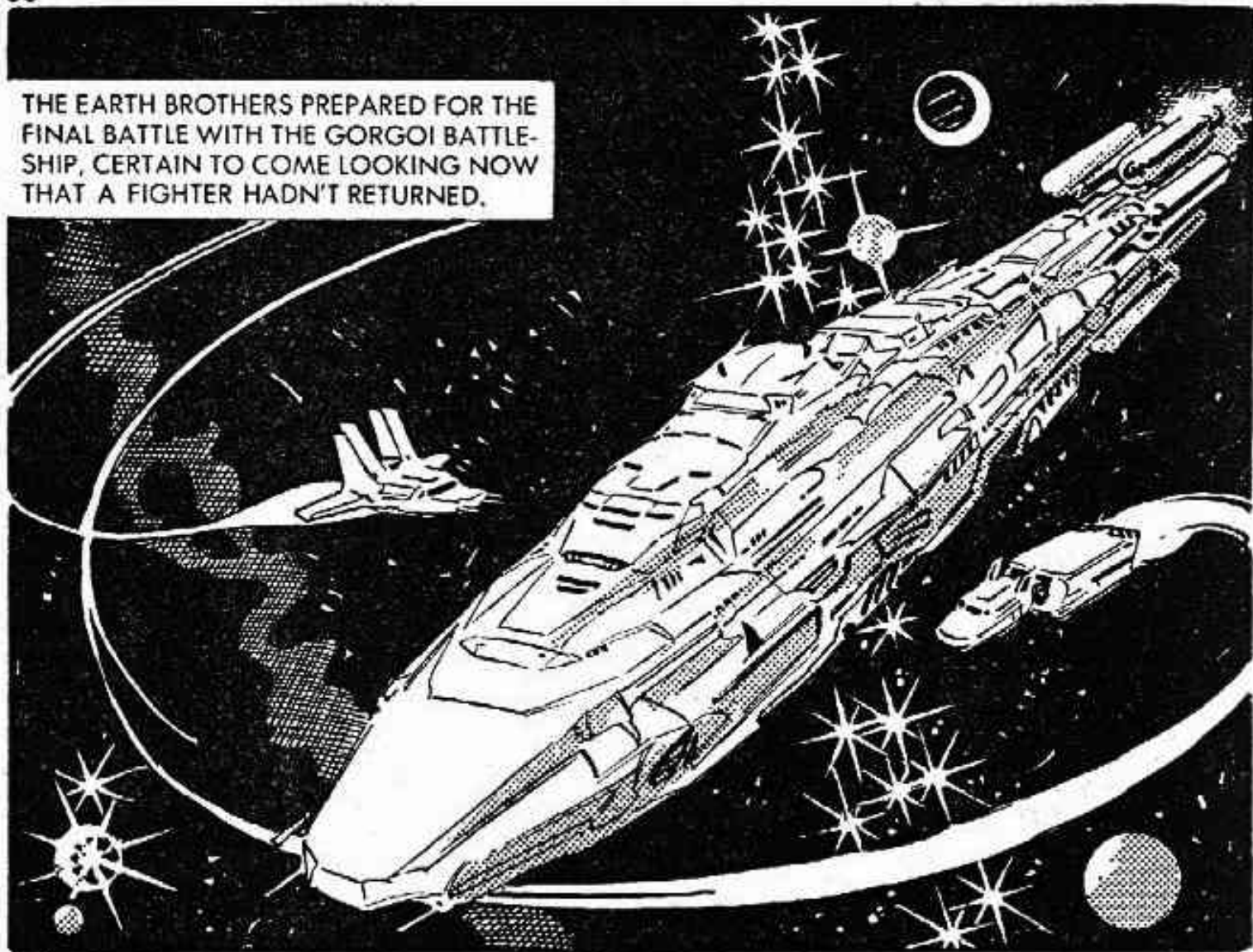
IT TOOK ONLY A FEW BRIEF MINUTES TO TAKE COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE GORGOI COMPUTER AND RECODE INSTRUCTIONS INTO STANDARD TERRAN PHRASEOLOGY.



COLONIST MIKAL SCHENKER TO SANTANA... MIKAL SCHENKER GROUP TO SANTANA... YOU ARE CLEARED FOR BLAST OFF.



THE EARTH BROTHERS PREPARED FOR THE FINAL BATTLE WITH THE GORGOI BATTLESHIP, CERTAIN TO COME LOOKING NOW THAT A FIGHTER HADN'T RETURNED.



THE GORGOI BATTLESHIP IS IN A TEMPORAL WARP, SO WE HAVE NO CHANCE OF FINDING IT.

SO IT MUST FIND US — WE MUST BE READY.



SANTANA'S GOT A WARP TRACKER — WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP SPACIAL DISTURBANCES AT AN EARLY STAGE.

TEMPORAL WARPS WERE LITERALLY HOLES IN SPACE WHERE TIME STOOD STILL.



EVERY SPACIAL WAS INVESTIGATED, UNTIL —

SECTOR 5. SPACIAL DISTURBANCE ON LEVEL 42. THAT MEANS SOMETHING OF 2 MILLION TONS WARPING THROUGH, AND ACCORDING TO THE IDENTICHARTS, THAT'S WHAT A GORGOI BATTLESHIP DISPLACES.

THAT MUST BE IT! FOR A FEW SECONDS AFTER WARP, IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIRE CANNON, BUT ITS SHIELDS WILL BE UP...

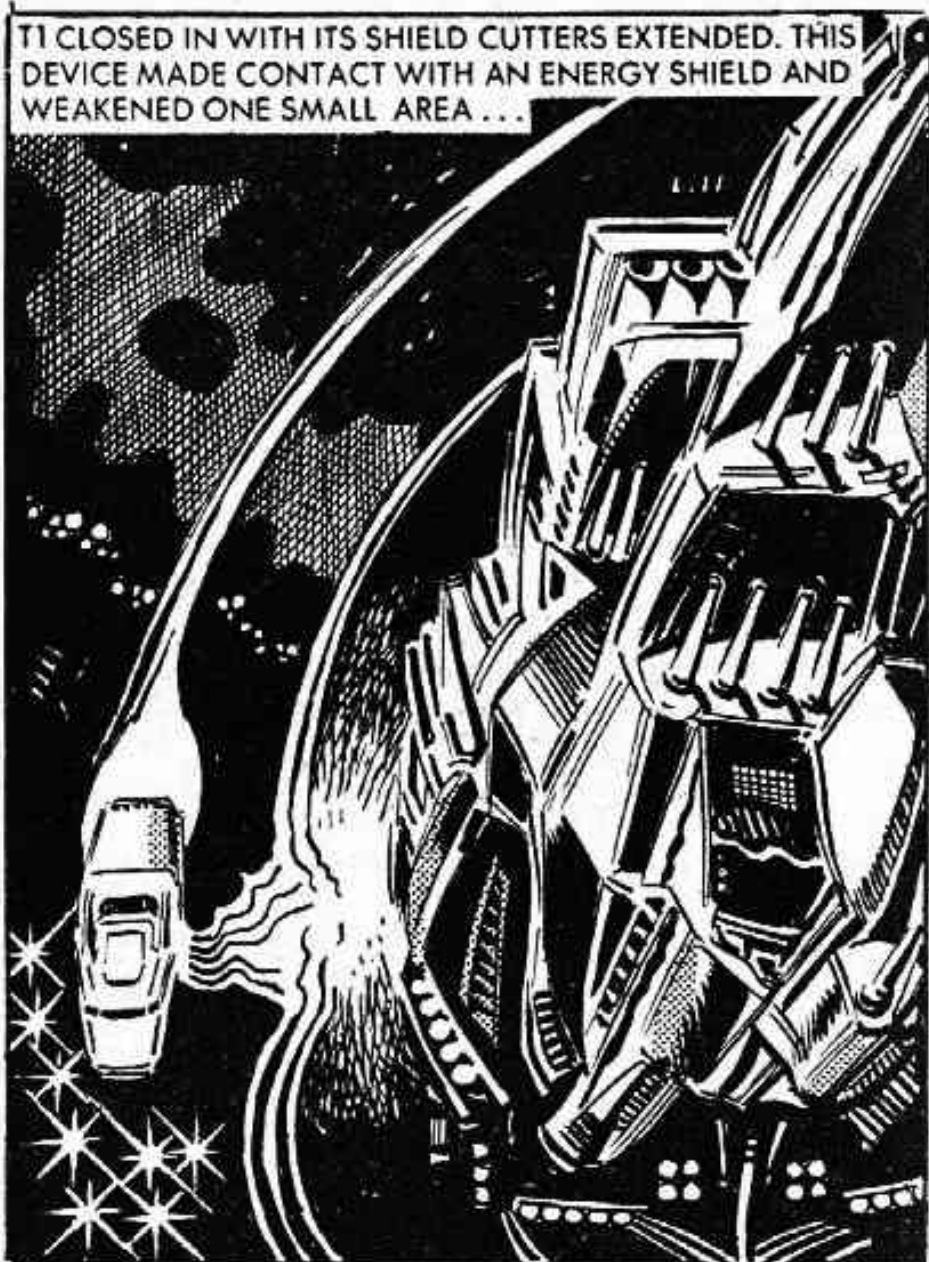
... SO IF T1 CAN RIP A HOLE IN ITS SHIELD AND LET THE FIGHTER IN, WE'VE GOT A CHANCE.

T1 WAS TAKEN TO THE VERY EDGE OF THE TEMPORAL WARP —

PREPARE SHIELD CUTTERS!



T1 CLOSED IN WITH ITS SHIELD CUTTERS EXTENDED. THIS  
DEVICE MADE CONTACT WITH AN ENERGY SHIELD AND  
WEAKENED ONE SMALL AREA . . .



...ALLOWING A TEMPORARY GAP TO BE CREATED.

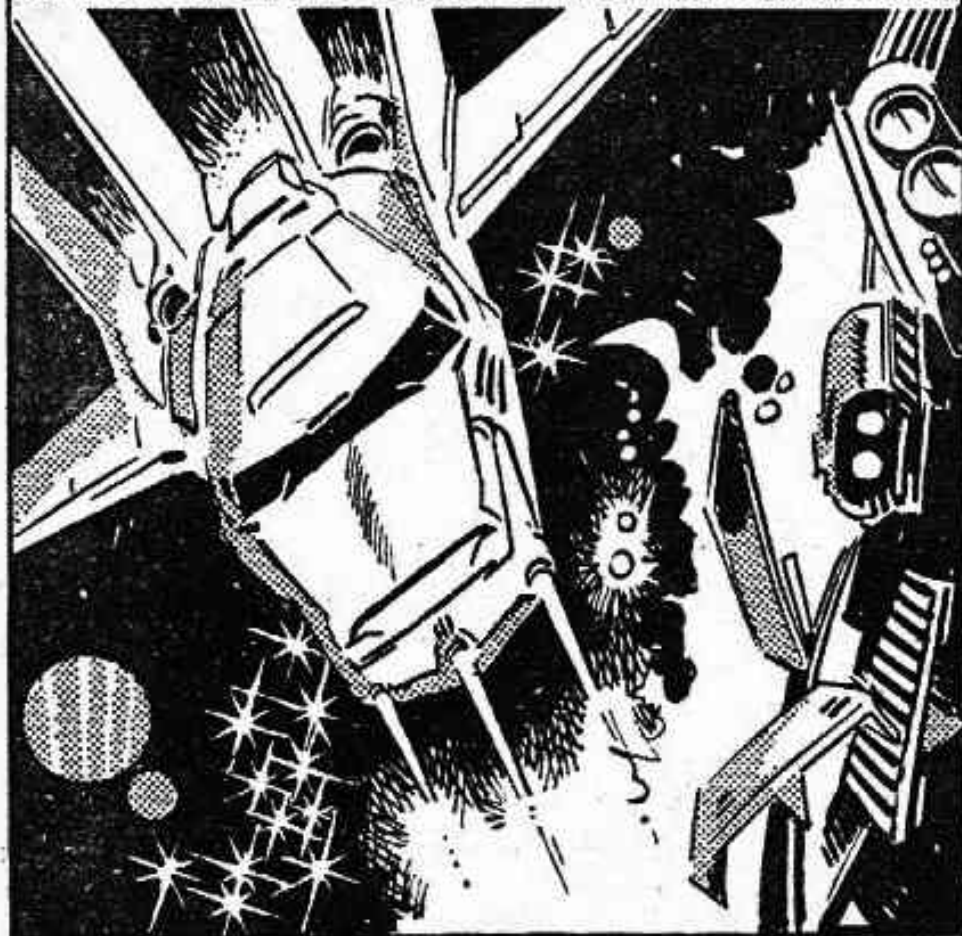




T1 MANAGED TO CREATE A HOLE, AND THE CAPTURED GORGOI FIGHTER ENTERED THE GAP.

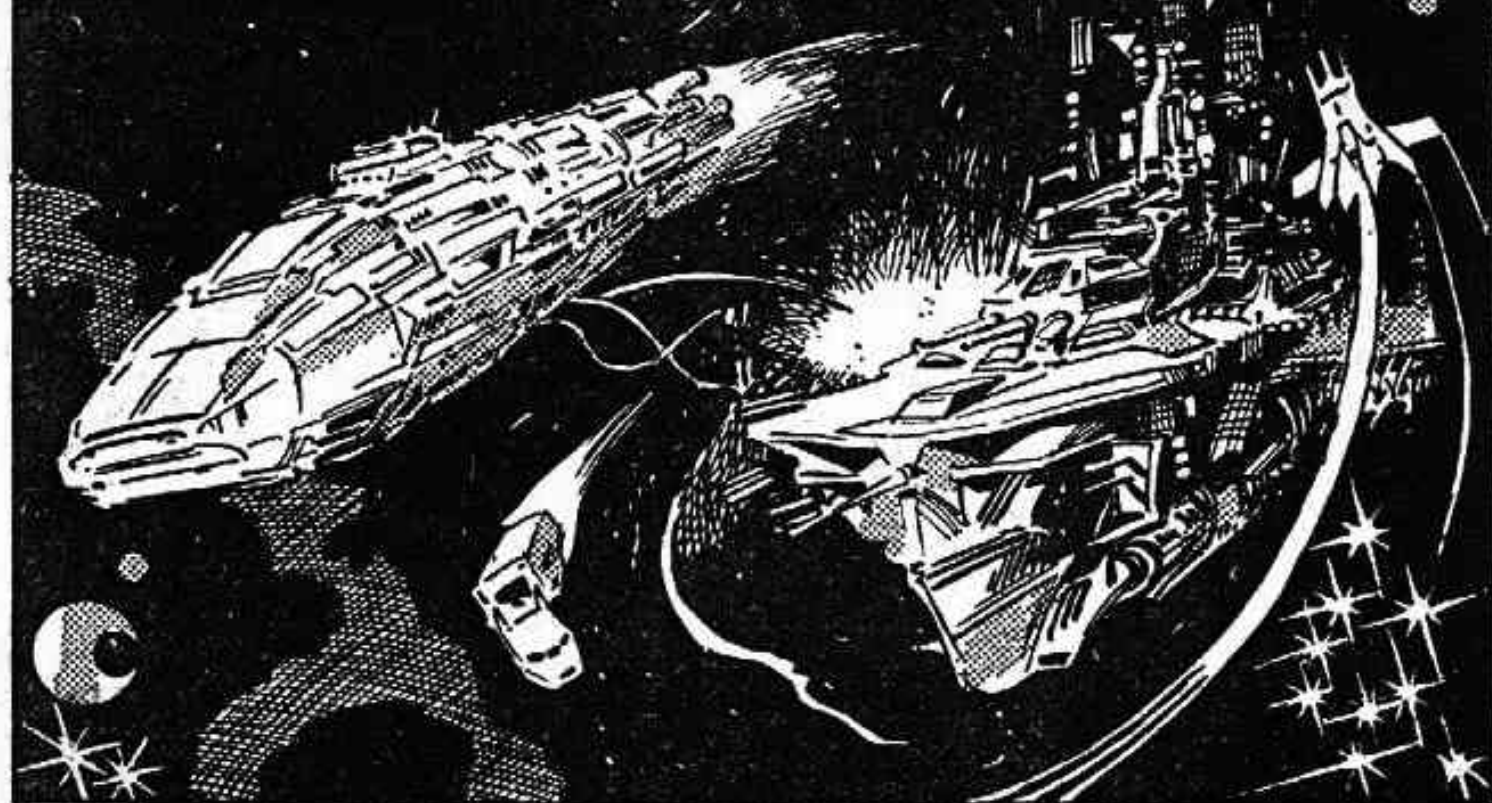


THE CAPTURED GORGOI FIGHTER, TOO CLOSE TO BE HIT BY CANNON-FIRE BEGAN TO DESTROY THE SHIELD GENERATORS.



SHIELD IS GOING! STAND BY TO COME ALONGSIDE.

TO OVERCOME THE GORGOI'S SUPERIOR FIREPOWER, SANTANA CAME IN CLOSE AND DOCKING LINES SNAKED OUT.



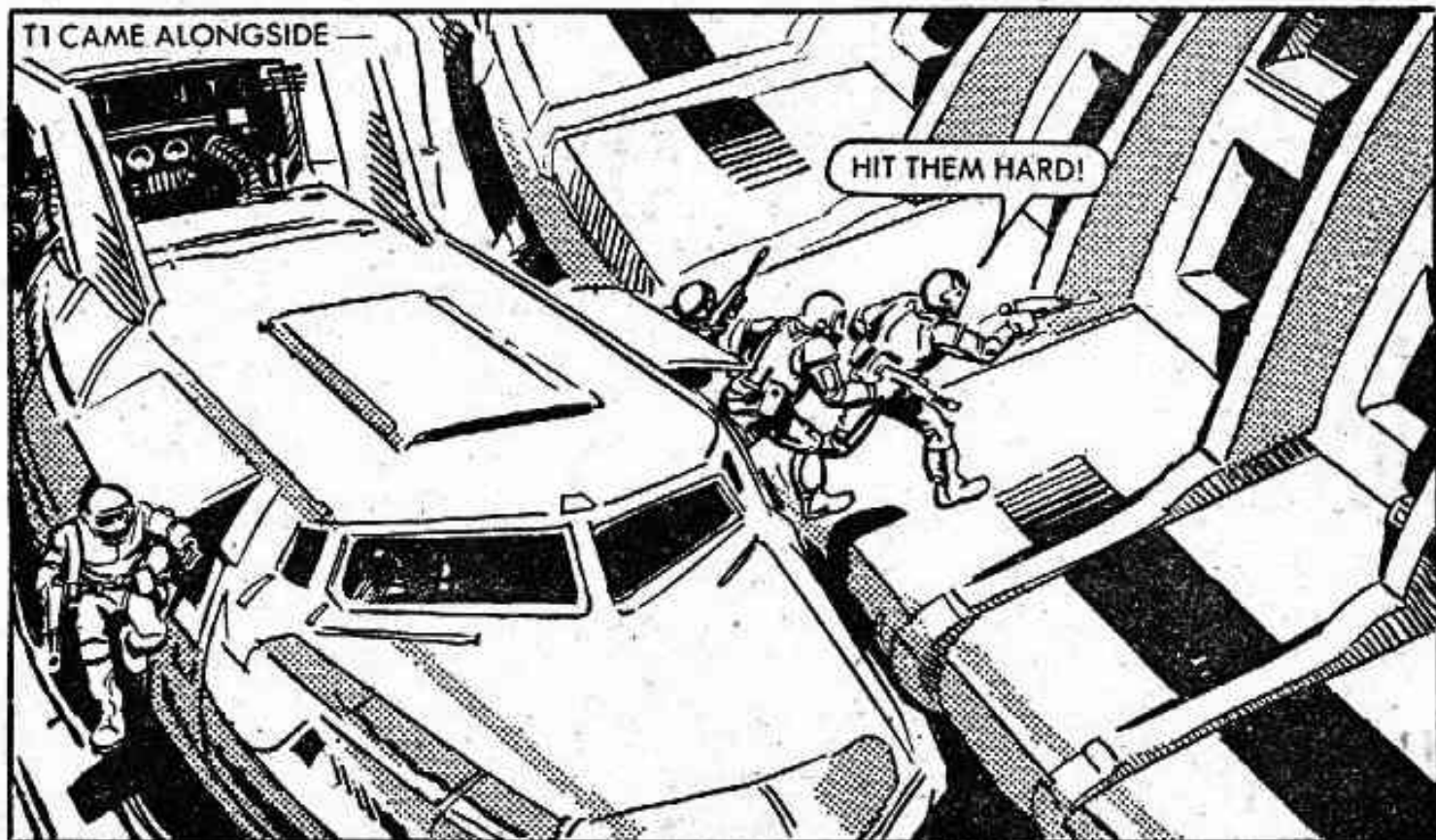


THE FINAL CONFLICT WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN.




GET TO THE  
COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE.

TI CAME ALONGSIDE —



HIT THEM HARD!



RIGHT — YOU'VE ALL GOT SONIC BOOTS ON  
— WHEN I GIVE THE WORD, ACTIVATE THEM,  
AND MOVE.

SONIC BOOTS HAD IMPLANTS, WHICH, ONCE ACTIVATED,  
BROKE DOWN DENSE MATERIALS BY VIBRATING THEM TO PIECES.



THEY KICKED THEIR WAY  
THROUGH BULKHEADS —



THE GORGOI WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE —



THE SPECTACULAR ENTRANCE ALL BUT DEALT WITH THE GORGOI IN THE COMMUNICATIONS  
CENTRE.

WELL, THAT'S THAT! CONTACT EARTH  
FOR HELP, WE'LL GO TO THE LOWER  
DECKS TO JOIN UP WITH THE OTHERS.



UNABLE TO USE THEIR FEARSOME WEAPONS, DESPERATE HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING RAGED.



FINALLY, REALISING THAT HE COULDN'T WIN, THE GORGOI COMMANDER SURRENDERED.

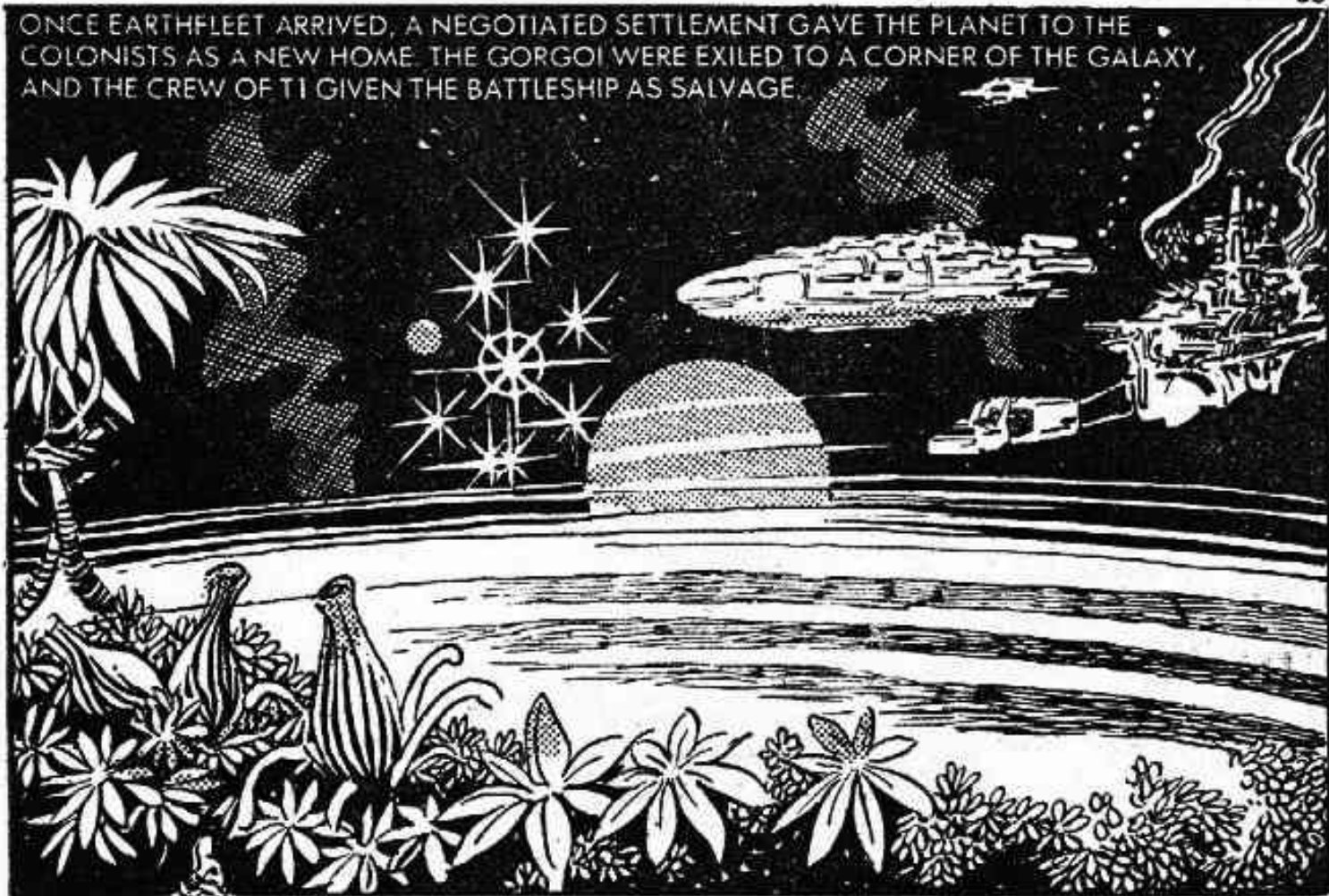


IT IS NO DISGRACE TO BOW TO FIGHTERS SUCH AS YOU! I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU AS ... HOW DO YOU SAY IT ... MEN OF HONOUR.

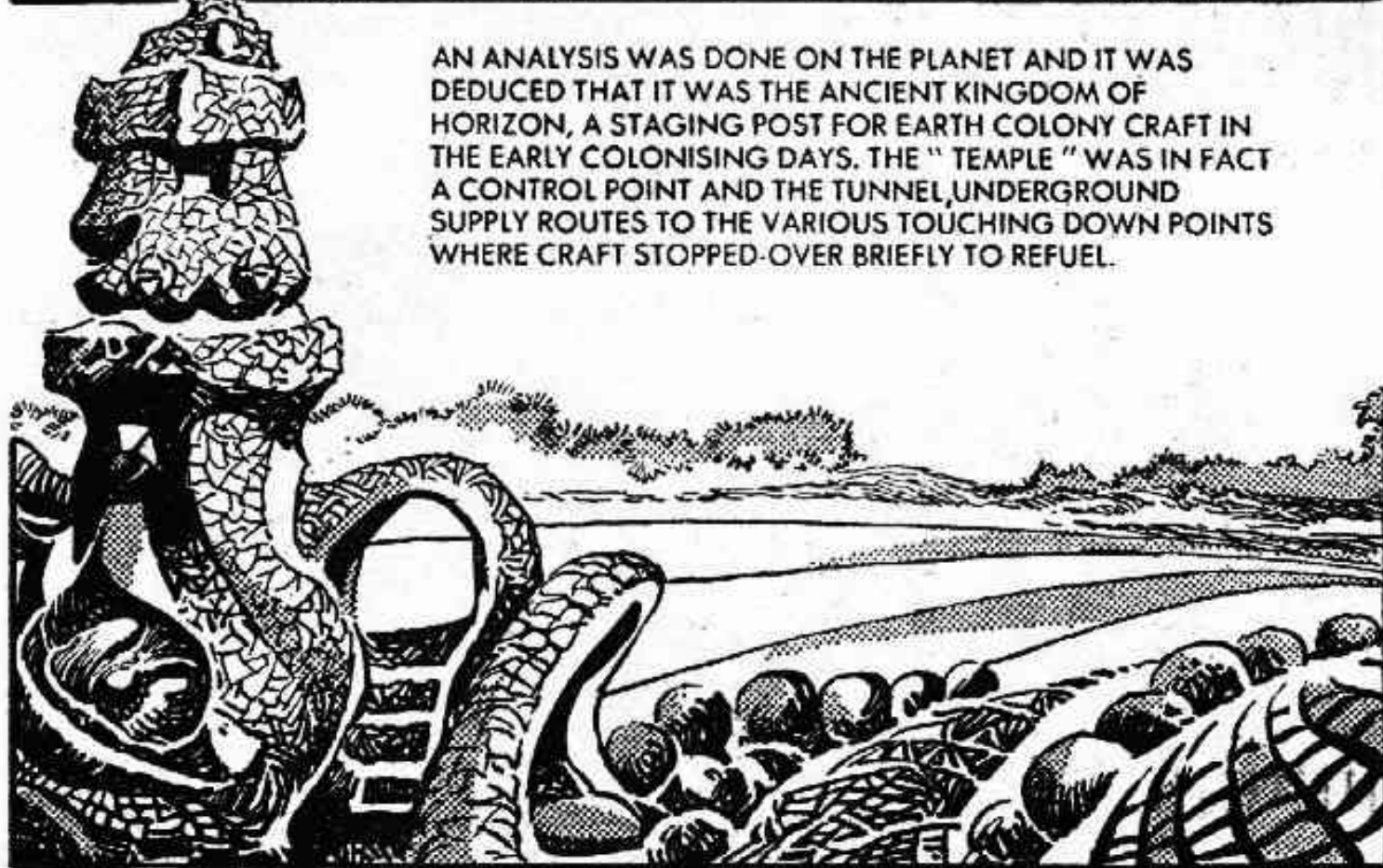
WE ARE MEN OF HONOUR. WE WILL NOT COMMIT ATROCITIES SUCH AS THOSE YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON MY PEOPLE.



ONCE EARTH FLEET ARRIVED, A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT GAVE THE PLANET TO THE COLONISTS AS A NEW HOME. THE GORGOI WERE EXILED TO A CORNER OF THE GALAXY, AND THE CREW OF T1 GIVEN THE BATTLESHIP AS SALVAGE.



AN ANALYSIS WAS DONE ON THE PLANET AND IT WAS DEDUCED THAT IT WAS THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF HORIZON, A STAGING POST FOR EARTH COLONY CRAFT IN THE EARLY COLONISING DAYS. THE "TEMPLE" WAS IN FACT A CONTROL POINT AND THE TUNNEL, UNDERGROUND SUPPLY ROUTES TO THE VARIOUS TOUCHING DOWN POINTS WHERE CRAFT STOPPED OVER BRIEFLY TO REFUEL.





SO TWO BRANCHES OF THE SAME RACE, SEPARATED BY A MILLION LIGHT YEARS WERE RE-UNITED BY A BOND THAT SPANS FOREVER—BROTHERHOOD.

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**The Soyuz 5 crew of Lieutenant Colonel Boris Valentinovich Volynov, Alexei Stanislovich Yeliseyev, and Lieutenant Colonel Yevgeny Vasilyevich Khrunov, were launched on January 15, 1969. The mission, to dock with Soyuz 4, lasted 3 days 0 hrs. 46 mins. Yeliseyev flew again in Soyuz 8 on October 13, 1969 for 4 days 22 hrs. 41 mins. and on Soyuz 10, launched April 23, 1971. This mission lasted 1 day 23 hrs. 45 mins. Volynov commanded Soyuz 21 on July 6, 1976 for 49 days 6 hrs. 24 mins. Khrunov and Volynov are still in cosmonaut programme while Yelesyev has become a leading man in the Soviet manned space programme.**